**Parables of the King and the Kingdom: The Parables of the Sower**

**Luke 8:4-18**

This morning, we begin a series of messages concerning the parables of the King and the kingdom. Jesus was the master teacher, and one of His methods of teaching was the use of parables. Parables are not bedtime stories to lull us to sleep, but rather trumpet blasts to awaken us.

**What is a parable?** Literally, the word *parable* means “to throw beside, to place beside, or to place together for the purpose of comparing, or making a comparison.”

**Why did Jesus use parables?** This is one of the most mysterious issues related to Jesus’ teaching.

* **Jesus used parables to .**
* **Jesus used parables to .**
* **Jesus used parables to .**

**How do we interpret the parables?** We must exercise caution with parables. All normal rules of Bible study must not be thrown away just because we are studying parables. Here are a couple rules:

* **Remember, is critical.**
* **Look for the truth.**

Often, the Lord would explain the main elements of the parables, therefore making them clearer to His disciples. The parable of the sower is one such parable. Let us consider this familiar parable and how it relates to the kingdom of God.

* **The of the . (4 & 5)** When the crowds gathered to hear Jesus teach, He spoke in parables. Perhaps Jesus even pointed to a farmer in a field, a man with a bag of seed around his neck, reaching in and taking an ample handful of seed and slinging it upon the field. **Seed in the barn never produces a harvest.**

We have a responsibility to sow the seed of God’s Word.

* Sow it plentifully. (2 Cor. 9:6)
* Sow it personally. (Psalm 126:6)
* Sow it passionately. (Psalm 126:6)
* **The of the . (11)** Jesus leaves us no doubt concerning the meaning of the seed; it is the Word of God. Nothing can produce the harvest of souls for the kingdom but the Word! The kingdom is built by the preaching and teaching of the Word of God.

The power to transform lives is found in the Word! (Hebrews 4:12)

* **The of the . (12-15)** The largest portion of the parable relates to the various types of soil. This truly could be referred to as the parable of the soils.
  + **The wayside represents the hard heart.**
  + **The rocky soil represents the shallow heart.**
  + **The thorny soil represents the crowded heart.**
  + **The good soil represents the soft, fruitful heart.**

**Application:**

**Have you been born again by the Word of God?**

**Are you building your life upon the principles of God’s Word?**

**Are you sowing the seed of God’s Word personally?**