

## Parables of Jesus part 5

### *Various Scriptures*

*Then the disciples came up and asked him, "Why are you speaking to them in parables?" He answered them, "Because the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given for you to know, but it has not been given to them. -Matthew 13:10-11*

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "kingdom of heaven"?

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Do you believe the church today promotes more about it's buildings and programs or walking in the authority of the kingdom of heaven? Why or why not?

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**Basileia;** Greek word for kingdom, sovereignty, \_\_\_\_\_ power.

As members of the body of Christ it is very important that we understand and live out God's kingdom plan with the power He has given us. In order to do this, we must constantly read His word ask, "How is God encouraging \_\_\_\_\_ in His word to promote His kingdom?"

### **#1 He encourages us to spread the Word**

#### **Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15**

**Context:** Jesus has been traveling throughout the region; every city and village preaching and bringing the glad tidings of \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 8:1). Whenever it was discovered that Jesus was in town people would gather to hear Him speak. At this particular time Jesus was in a boat near the shore and He began speaking to the people along the shore in parables.

#### **Let's consider the sower....Matthew 13:3-8**

\*He went out to sow; A farmer cannot sow seed from inside, he has to get up and get outside in the elements.

\*He threw his seeds on all types of ground; some seed fell along the \_\_\_\_\_, other seed fell on \_\_\_\_\_ ground, other seed fell among \_\_\_\_\_, other seed fell on \_\_\_\_\_ ground.

**Why would a farmer allow precious seed to land on the path, or rocks, or among thorns? Is he irresponsible for scattering seeds at random? Why or why not?**

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God is not stingy with His love, but He sent His Son into this world, to suffer, bleed, and die for \_\_\_\_\_. He is risen, and salvation is readily available to all who will receive it by faith. Therefore, He graciously sows the “seed” of the gospel for all to receive.

**Let’s consider the soils...Matthew 13:18-23**

\*Along the path and the birds came and devoured them; The path is the ground where everyone walks as they travel from place to place. Jesus says, just like the birds fly down and eat the seeds as soon as they land so it is with the devil. If we’re not paying attention, He too will quickly snatch the word of God from the opportunity of taking root in our lives.

Have you ever sat in Worship, Bible Study yawning, nodding off, not paying attention, talking or thinking about something else? \_\_\_\_\_

**What are some practical things we can do to stay focused when we hear the word of God?**

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If we don’t take God’s word seriously our hearts will become like the path, as soon as the word of God is preached/taught it goes in one ear and out the other!

\*Rocky ground where it did not have much soil, and it grew up quickly since the soil wasn’t deep. But when the sun came up, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Jesus says, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. But he has no root so it is short lived. When distress or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he falls away.

These are the people who stayed awake during the sermon. They heard the word, received it, and was encouraged by it. However when a trial or temptation came about because of their commitment to the word they gave up.

Have you ever struggled with lust, greed, gossip or hateful thoughts? Have you ever disobeyed God’s commands? Have you ever ignored a person who could use your help? \_\_\_\_\_

**What are two things you can do today that will strengthen your confidence in God’s word?**

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\*Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it. Jesus says, the seed among thorns is the one who hears the word, but the worries of this age and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

They hear the word, but do \_\_\_\_\_ with it.  
They know the word, but don't truly \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
They teach the word, but don't \_\_\_\_\_ it.

Have you ever been there? What happened? You used to be actively involved, supportive to the mission and causes of the church?

**Can you name some possible thorns that have tried to choke out your commitment to serving the Lord?** Romans 12:2; 2 Timothy 4:10; 1 John 2:15-17

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-The good ole days      - \_\_\_\_\_      - \_\_\_\_\_      -pleasures

**What can we do to stay focused on the kingdom of heaven?**

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\*Good ground, producing fruit: some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty times what was sown. Jesus says this is the one who hears and understands the word, who does produce fruit and yields; some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times what was sown.

If you were to hear this parable without Jesus' explanation would you still be able to understand it? \_\_\_\_\_

Now that we have heard the word and Jesus has given us a better understanding, what type of soil will you be?

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-Remember our soil can either encourage us or \_\_\_\_\_ us from receiving the word of God.

Notice the different levels of harvest:

1 seed yields 100 more; another seed yields 60 more; another seed yields 30 more

**What can we do to ensure the soil of our heart remains good and able to produce a bountiful harvest for the glory of God?** 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

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**Let's consider our sharing....**

Certainly there will be times when we experience all of soils, but the key is when the Holy Spirit has us firmly planted in the good soil to use it as an opportunity to share His word with others!

Jesus planted many seeds over 2,000 years ago and they have produced a bountiful harvest. However He wants you and I (His followers) to continue sowing seeds of the Good news today. Matthew 13:11-12; Matthew 28:19

How can we sow right now?

- \*Tell your own \_\_\_\_\_
- \*Lead a small group
- \*Answer His call to ministry
- \*Start a Bible study at work
- \*Go on a \_\_\_\_\_ trip

Whatever the Holy Spirit leads you to do, remember there are all kinds of soil. Some will receive God's message and others will reject it. Regardless keep on sowing and let God get the increase!

**What is one thing you learned that you are willing to share with someone else?**

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**“It’s not about how much you do, but how much love you put into what you do that counts.”-Mother Teresa**