

Are You Listening?

121017AM

Matthew 13:3-9

- Mat. 13:1 – Sowing was & is, familiar to most of us.
- The same good seed (the Word - 13:19; Mk. 4:14; Lk. 8:11) is sown in hearts, soils, of different conditions.
- The same seed sown today will have similar results – an enduring effect on some (cf. Mat. 7:13-14).
- Mat. 13:10-15 – Neither understood nor appreciated by those not seeking the kingdom of God first.
- Mat. 13:16-17 – Understood & appreciated by those seeking first the kingdom of God and His Righteousness.
 - *The biblical “heart” comprises:*
 - *Emotion & sensibilities (Mat. 22:37).*
 - *Intellect and will (Rom. 6:16-17; 10:10).*
 - *As such, requires instruction and protection (Pro. 4:23; 23:7; Mat. 12:35; Lk. 6:45).*

The Wayside Soil

- The seed is not affected by the soil, nor is soil affected by the seed – it cannot germinate.
- Fowls represent “the wicked one,” the devil (Mat. 13:19) – the seed is abused because it is unwelcome and unused.
- Refers to those of Mat. 13:13-15 who do not understand, because they will not try understand.
- Hard hearted, uninterested, hard to change! Heb. 3:13.

In The Stony Places

- Quick embrace of gospel, but no root for growth – Jn. 6:66; 1Jn 2:19 “They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us; but they went out that they might be made manifest, that none of them were of us.”
- Discipleship must be firmly rooted in Christ – Col. 2:6-7.
- Sun is needed for health, but will wither a weak plant – Mat. 13:21.
- Jas. 1:11-12 – what strengthens the faithful can destroy the unfaithful!

Jas 1:11-12 “For no sooner has the sun risen with a burning heat than it withers the grass; its flower falls, and its beautiful appearance perishes. So the rich man also will fade away in his pursuits. Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”

Among the Thorns

- Thorns aggressively compete for resources...
- The thorny heart becomes entangled with the affairs of this life, no time for Christ! – cf. 2 Tim. 2:4.
- “And he becomes unfruitful” implying past fruitfulness (Gal. 5:22-23). Cf. Mat. 12:45 “Then he goes and takes with him seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. So shall it also be with this wicked generation.”
- The worldly crowds out the spiritual until Christianity becomes a minor hobby – Eph. 4:1; Mat. 16:26.

The Good Ground

- An Honest & Good Heart – the seed is wanted & welcomed; the soil prepared, thorns & stones removed.
- Mat. 13:33 “Hear the word and understand it.” Mk. 4:20.
- Lk. 8:15 – “having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience”
- Acts 8:1-4 – Reacts to persecution by preaching!
- 1 Jn. 2:5 – Who, by keeping His word, know they are in Him.

Decision...

- Lk. 10:2 – The harvest is a great but the workers are few.
- When seed is sown, cannot blame the seed or the sower for lack of growth or fruit.
- Hearts can change & the only way to salvation is through a change of the heart through faith, repentance, confession and baptism into Christ.