

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 King James Version (KJV)

13 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. **2** And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. **3** And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; **4** And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: **5** Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: **6** And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. **7** And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: **8** But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. **9** Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. **19** When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the wayside. **20** But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; **21** Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. **22** He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. **23** But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

Giving Honor to God the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit.

To All of God's Sons, Daughters, and Children. Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow. Let's turn to Matthew, Chapter 13 as we lift up the Name of the Lord.

In this unit of scripture, Jesus teaches about Word (seed) and the condition of the soil (heart). Beloved, have you ever thought about what kind of soil most resembles your life? This is a valid question because it's important to know this about ourselves. Are you like the hard-packed path? Someone who

doesn't understand the truth, so you never take it deep into your heart? Are you like stony soil with just a little depth... Someone who lacks commitment and really doesn't allow the Word to get down deep enough to develop roots (in the heart)? Are you like the soil full of thorns, whose preoccupation with wealth or worldly cares choke out the seed? Or are you like the good soil that causes a great, rich harvest to come up?

As we ponder who we are and where we are at this very moment, I want you to know that you can change the condition of your soil. Yes, you have the power to change the quality of your soil. I'd like to share with you a few principles and then I will conclude.

Firstly, Beloved you have changing power. You see Philippians 4:13, teaches that "You can do all things through Christ which strengthens you." This literally means that you have changing power. There is no limit to what the Lord can do, and yes... with Christ you can change the condition of your soil and the condition of your life.

Secondly, you can change your soil by growing your faith. Well, how do you grow your faith? Thank You, I'm so glad you asked. The bible teaches us that faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Romans 10:17). The more you hear God's word, the more it empowers you. The more you hear God's word, the more it opens up your understanding. God's word is like miracle grow to your soil (heart). Keep in mind, many theologians share that sin is a heart condition. Romans 6:23 teaches us that the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life. Hearing God's word builds our faith and allows us to go through a reconditioning or a change in our hearts. You may say, "I'm not where I ought to

be, but I know where I used to be. I've got a brand new walk and a brand new talk. Well, it's because your soil (heart) is changing." Hallelujah, Amen.

Thirdly, It's "Let's Get It Time." My grandparents enjoyed planting in the garden. I remember looking at all the beautiful seeds and the displays on the packs of corn, butterbeans, squash, tomatoes, watermelons, etc. Do you remember how beautiful the illustrations on the packs were? As beautiful as the fruits and vegetables were on the packets, my grandparents knew that there was some work that would need to be done. On planting day, my grandparents met me out in the garden and I was really excited about sowing the seed. I couldn't wait to see the crops come up. It was on this day that I was introduced to the plow. I had seen one on television, but this was the first time I had seen one in person. I engaged the plow and went down the first row, it was an exhausting exercise, especially in the hot sun. I turned around to increase the depth of the plow and continued to complete additional rows as the blade pierced deeper into the earth. We spent a great deal of time preparing the soil. The stony ground was being tilled, conditioned, and prepared to receive the seed. We also took garden tools, turned them upside down, and poked holes in the soil, which served as the holes in which our seeds would be planted. We mixed some fertilizer and some miracle grow into the soil and we witnessed the changing of the soil. I saw that stony, dried up soil, change to good soil with my own eyes. We watered the soil and spend time working on the condition of the soil. Have you spent time in prayer and in the word of God changing the condition of your heart? I'm a witness to help you understand that in Christ you can do it. Jesus can change your soil (heart).

The Lord blessed us mightily and we had an amazing crop that year. I remember when we were planting, some birds would come and eat some of the seed, but we just kept planting. This was only a distraction. We realized that the birds couldn't eat the seed at the rate that we were sowing. "Hallelujah somebody." When you're doing the work of Lord, distractions may come. When you're trying to receive the Word; distractions may pop up. Just keep doing the work that the Lord has assigned to your hands. Have you ever received the word and were feeling good and then somebody comes to talk with you about something that is senseless? Take a praise break and remind yourself "It's Let's Get It Time." Let's Get It for Jesus. If it's not about Christ and the Word that we're receiving, we don't need to hear it right now.

In closing, Phil. 4:6-7 teaches us to ⁶Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. It's so important to make sure that the condition of our heart is ready to receive the word of God. It's serious. We must be engaged in prayer and supplication. The Hebrew and Greek words most often translated "supplication" in the bible mean "a request or petition." We are in prayer, requesting God's blessings and Thanking God for All Things. His Peace will keep us through Christ Jesus.

I want you to know today, that Christ is available to you. The Lord is here with open arms. The scripture: Romans 10:9 declares that if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. Please allow the Lord Jesus Christ to come into your heart today. J-E-S-U-S is the way to life, life more abundantly, and eternal life.