

The Parable of the Sower

The Hebrew's were children of nature and children of the land.

To fully appreciate the Old Testament nature literature you must understand their point of view.

With them secondary causes did not exist; only the primary cause; various manifestations of nature were personifications of God.

The sun, moon and stars were His witnesses.

The thunder and storms were His voice.

The winds were His Messengers and the earthquakes were sounds of His footsteps.

He clothed Himself in the garments of light and rode upon the clouds as His chariot. The whole earth was filled with His glory and immediate presence.

By the time of Jesus the Jews had lost their former interest and love of nature. The interest of the Scribes, Pharisees and doctors of the Law had begun to rest in trivial traditions, superficial forms of temple rituals and purity.

Today in our modern day city life the display and works of men so hem us in that we can hardly see beyond the street in which we live.

We are so completely occupied in the affairs of men, that it is no wonder that we have so little of God in our lives, when we know and see so little of what God has made.

In a Psalm David could say:

Psalm 8:1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 8:4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

In the 7 parables of Matthew 13 Jesus calls us back to the natural examples of nature to show us how the Kingdom of God works.

Matthew 13:1-2

The Hearing Heart

JESUS receives unprecedented popularity, *great multitudes come.*

GOD speaks and we have the responsibility to listen.

Had these people used their GOD given hearing? How serious were they?

Matthew 13:3

A parable is literally something laid alongside of another thing to compare it or explain it.

In the New Testament a parable is an illustration drawn from natural thing to instruct in spiritual things.

Those who heard Jesus could see in their imaginations the common occurrence of a sower casting seeds to the ground.

The *sower* is JESUS (v:37); the *seed* is the Word (v: 19); the *earth* is the heart (v: 19).

GOD IS SPEAKING THROUGH THE MESSIAH

Hebrew 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 1:2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds

Is anybody listening?

(A) The two parts to any communication are: What's *said* and what's *heard*.

(B) Hearing is judged on the basis of what's said being put into action by the hearer.

(C) The Pharisees are listening, but do they hear?

(D) Jesus is concerned about the hearing capacity of our heart.

The Hebrew word *heart equals* the intellect, the emotions and the will of a person.

The Word must thunder through all aspects of our heart!!!

Matthew 13:4-9

God is speaking through the Messiah and we have a responsibility to listen.

Matthew 13:10-11

The Apostles were selected to receive full instruction of the gospel. These were mysteries to others, but plain truths to them.

Matthew 13:12

It is a natural law that those who have wisdom to listen shall learn more and those who refuse to hear the word will become less and less spiritual.

Matthew 13:13-15

Isaiah 6:9-10 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Isaiah 6:11-12 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, 6:12 And the LORD have removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

Matthew 13:16

To the Apostles Jesus opens the truth to the Old Testament and explains the mysteries dimly seen by the ancient prophets.

Matthew 13:17 cf:

The Hebrew prophets looked to the future of the coming of the Messiah, but the Apostles had received a fuller knowledge, greater gifts and more excellent promises than the Jews had received. Jesus said cf:

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

Moses looking to that future day chose:

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Peter could say of the Christian dispensation

I Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: 1:11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Matthew 13:18-19

The Hard Hearted Hearer

(A) Distorted thinking about GOD, ritualism, customs, practices They just can't put it together and understand. Legalism

(B) Marble hearted disciples who have their own ideas about GOD. Baptized with a baptism of holy fervor instead of remission of sins – refuse to follow the light that they have been given.

I John 3:11-12 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 3:12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

(C) The path of their heart is hard from past foot, hoof, and wheel and the seed cannot take root. With each failure and rejection, hard defense barriers have been erected

The one who lays the word to heart and obeys it does all that he needs to do to be saved.

Hebrews 4:1-11 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4:4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. 4:5 And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into my rest. 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: 4:7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. 4:8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 4:9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 4:10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. 4:11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Hebrews 10:38-39 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

(D) This kind of person has never allowed Jesus to deal with their emotions (feelings) or their will (life's daily practices). They have never really come to Jesus.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Luke 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? 6:47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the

flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 6:49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat

Shallow Hearted Hearer

Matthew: 13:20-21 cf:

**(A) A Heart of bedrock covered over with a thin layer of soil.
A Joyful beginning but they are like a tire with a slow leak ...**

(B) The seed is planted but the root soon reaches rock where it has no nourishment rock.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:23-26 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 1:24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 1:25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain

(C) We must love God with our minds and our lives as well as our feelings.

Matthew 13:22

The Crowded Hearted Hearer

**While the rains lasts both the thorns and the good seed grows,
but when the rains ceases the bad seed prevails and the good is destroyed.**

(A) God is demanding of us absolute loyalty and first place in everything in our lives – the thorns are sin.

(B) This disciple has no lives – thorns are sin.

I John 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

(C) GOD wants to reign supreme in your heart

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

(D) Can you honestly thank GOD for your pleasures in life while you are doing them. If not they are sin.

I John 5:17-19 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death. 5:18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. 5:19 *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches are in constant warfare with good.

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

Matthew 13:23

The Christian Heart.

A Luke 8:15 amplifies Matthew's account "honest and good hearted, having heard the word, keep it..."

Luke 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

B. Understand

I Kings 3:9 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

C. Fruit both souls and Christian Character

Souls:

John 15:1-8 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 15:2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 15:3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 15:5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Christian Character

Galatians 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Now comes the Parable of the Tares tares = Greek darnel or false grain.

Matthew 13:24-30

Matthew 13:31-32 Parable Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:33 Parable of Leaven.

Matthew 13:34-35 cf:

Psalms 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Matthew 13:36-43