

## The parable of the sower

The atheistic philosopher Richard Dawkins, one of the for most skeptics of Christianity, was questioned in a CNN interview as to what he would say to God if he was to end up meeting him someday. Dawkins responded with the following saying that he would ask God “why have you taken such pains to conceal yourself?”

Surely the Scriptures are true of Mr. Dawkins which say:

### **1 Corinthians 1: 19-21**

**19**For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

**20**Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? **21**For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach<sup>b</sup>

**2 Timothy 4:3**, , **25** **3**For the time is coming when people will not endure sound<sup>a</sup> teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, **4**and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

### **Matthew 11:25-26**

**25**At that time Jesus declared, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children; **26**yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.<sup>g</sup>

the Bible repeatedly speaks of self-induced blindness,

*second Thessalonians 2: 10 – 12* “.....because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. **11**Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, **12**in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

Yet for those who are humble and seek out their maker they shall find the secrets to the kingdom of heaven they will surely find.

For God is a God who speaks and communicates to his creation!

### **Psalm 94:9**

**8** Understand, O dullest of the people!

Fools, when will you be wise?

**9** He who planted the ear, does he not hear?

He who formed the eye, does he not see?

**10** He who disciplines the nations, does he not rebuke?

He who teaches man knowledge—

and surely God who made our mouths and has given us the ability to communicate intelligibly and in an understandable coherent way how much more is he capable of communicating the full Council of his will to his beloved creation.

*This simple logic is One of the greatest proofs for the reliability of the Scriptures. If God has created intelligent beings with the ability to communicate, then it would be inconceivable that the creator of all things can not clearly speak everything that he intends for us to know!*

I am completely persuaded that everything God wants us to know has been preserved in his word and it is the book to which all flesh must give an account!

for God is not left himself without a testimony!

the one true God has revealed himself in a plain and clear fashion. He has revealed himself in three primary ways first of all in creation, second in his word, and lastly through his holy people.

*Jesus comes as the word of God in the flesh and therefore speaks with all authority. He also appears physically in bodily form in the fullness of time in the religious capital of the world as the great light in order that the entire world might come to know it's God!*

Referring to **creation or natural revelation** the Bible tells us in Romans 1:18-20

**18** For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. **19** For what can be known about God is plain to them,

because God has shown it to them. [20](#)For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world,<sup>g</sup> in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Psalms 19:1-4

[1](#)The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above<sup>a</sup> proclaims his handiwork.

[2](#)Day to day pours out speech,  
and night to night reveals knowledge.

[3](#)There is no speech, nor are there words,  
whose voice is not heard.

[4](#)Their voice<sup>b</sup> goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world....

in reference to God's **direct revelation** in his word we read:

[1](#)Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [2](#)but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. [3](#)He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

John one the Word became flesh

John 1:14

[14](#)And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son<sup>d</sup> from the Father, full of grace and truth.

and speaking of the intended purpose of his people the Bible tells us:

this light still shines today.

If God has revealed himself in such a plain clear fashion why doesn't everyone believe? Is Mr. Dawkins correct in saying that the blame lies with God or is there some other cause to man's inability to perceive God. I believe the answer to this fundamental question is addressed by Jesus in his parable of the sower!

Jesus makes use of both natural and direct revelation in the parable which we are going to study this morning. Jesus reveals secrets within creation, that while in plain view of all, have been hidden from the foundation of the world. He reveals that the world was created in such a way as to testify to himself and to be a representation of greater truths found in the kingdom of heaven! I am convinced that everything in creation if we were to understand its meaning would testify to Jesus Christ and represent some heavenly truth.

Colossians 1:16 **16**For by <sup>h</sup>him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. **17**And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

English Standard Version

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The Parable of the Sower

**4**And when a great crowd was gathering and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable,

take note of the great crowds that were gathered to hear Jesus and yet Jesus has never been concerned about gathering great crowds as much as he is concerned about true and authentic disciples. Many false groups have no trouble drawing great crowds but yet it is the authenticity which is lacking. Jesus stresses quality over quantity. John chapter 6 gives us some insight into the crowds which were following Jesus and reveals their motivation for following him.

Three reasons are given:

**2**And a large crowd was following him, because they saw **the signs that he was doing on the sick.**

**15**Perceiving then that they were about to come and **take him by force to make him king**, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

**26**Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate **your fill of the loaves**.

And after Jesus preaches a challenging message full of spiritual truth we read that:

**66**..... **Many of his disciples turned back** and no longer walked with him.

In summary the crowds are earthly minded and are desiring miracles, and earthly king with an earthly government, and there to be full of earthly food.

Jesus teachings are spiritually minded about the kingdom of heaven.

Now (*back to our text in Luke*) the Bible tells us that Jesus spoke things by means of a parable. A parable is simply put an earthly story which is representative of a deeper, more significant spiritual truth. It allows Jesus to reveal truth while at the same time concealing it.

Now if you like me you're probably asking why Jesus is concealing information from the crowds. In Matthew's account of the parable of the sower in verse 10 of chapter 13 the disciples pose this very question.

**10**Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” **11**And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

Consider that God's revelation to man in his word is progressive in nature. God From the beginning of time has been revealing bits and pieces of knowledge that build upon each other. All this was slowly building up to the appointed time when God was going to make known fully the way in which man might be saved. It is not until the day of Pentecost that the full counsel of God's will is made known!

Therefore it was not the intention of Jesus to reveal these truths to the people at this time but rather reveal in part and in a sense prophesy about the coming kingdom as well as to instruct his apostles in order that they might be prepared to proclaim the truth of the kingdom of God to the entire world at a later date. The spirit would also aid in the their preaching and convict

and soften unbelieving hearts. Also notice that we have been given the explanation of these parables and they are not hidden to us but have been unlocked ever since the establishment of the church on Pentecost.

Paul speaks to this in Ephesians 3:7-12

**7**Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. **8**To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, **9**and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in<sup>b</sup> God, who created all things, **10**so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. **11**This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, **12**in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

So we see that in a very short time God is going to reveal these secrets through his apostles and church.

***5**"A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell along the path and was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the air devoured it. **6**And some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. **7**And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with it and choked it. **8**And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded a hundredfold." As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."*

## The Purpose of the Parables

***9**And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, **10**he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God, but for others they are in parables, so that 'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'*

*Skipping down to Jesus explanation of the parable in verse 11 we read.*

**11Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.**

**The seed is the word of God and consequently sower could be viewed as those who preach the word of God.**

**There is also a sense in which God is the master gardener and the caretaker is people.**

**1"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. 2Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.**

**Observe Paul says in 1 Corinthians 3:6**

[6](#)I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. [7](#)So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. [8](#)He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. [9](#)For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

Also notice that God's people are referred to as his field. In Old Testament we see that the heart of man is compared to soil with the capability of being either hard or soft. This is the idea which is conveyed in our text and Jesus reveals to us that there are four types of soil representing the hearts of four types of people.

**[12](#)The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.**

Consider the hardness of the path, this is ground that has been packed down and is solid as a brick. This ground would not have been plowed but rather remains compact and it continues to get harder with foot travel.

The concept of hardness of heart in the Bible carries with the idea of unbelief, stubbornness and a refusal to obey the Word of God and repent.

[Romans 2:5](#) [5](#)But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.

This hardness of heart can also be extended towards fellow man: *James 2:15-16*

**back to verse 12 We read "Then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved"**

**Devils job beginning has been to lie about and twist the Scripture placing doubts in mankind.**

Our first ancestors listened to the devil over the word of God and both communion with him and paradise was lost.

One of the chief ways in which the devil tries to deceive us is into making us believe that outward expression of religion is satisfactory towards God

but yet it is possible to be highly religious and yet be of those along the path with a hard heart!

## **Matthew 5:8**

**8**“This people honors me with their lips,

but their heart is far from me;

we are desperate for a soft heart!

If I speak in the tongue of angels you have not love Pharisees called theologians

## [Hebrews 3:12-15](#)

**13**And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy.

But these have no root; they believe for a while, and in time of testing fall away.

Matthew gives us a little bit more information in chapter 13 verse five through six he says

**5**Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, **6**but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

Jesus is clearly teaching here that it is possible to become a Christian with great joy and yet fall away from grace. The reason being a lack spiritual food and nutrition.

## **Jeremiah 17:7-8**

**7**“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord,  
whose trust is the Lord.

**8**He is like a tree planted by water,  
that sends out its roots by the stream,  
and does not fear when heat comes,  
for its leaves remain green,  
and is not anxious in the year of drought,  
for it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Jesus is teaching us that in the same way that plants are dependent upon rich soil and life-giving water the soul of man is entirely dependent upon God.

Is God not trying to teach us this by the way he created us?



For man is not independent but yet we are radically dependent on external sources! We are not autonomous we cannot exist by our own strength. We need for example air to breathe! We must have food and water or we will die!

In the very same way the soul of man is spiritually dependent upon Jesus Christ our true spiritual food and if we do not abide in him we will experience spiritual sickness and eventually death!

**John 15** **4** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. **6** If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. **7** If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

***If we do not eat we will die***

***We are to crave spiritual food***

Verse 21 Church the only hope for our nation is a revival of pure religion throwing off of the traditions and perversions of men in order that we might have a reliance upon the pure doctrine of Christ. Authority does not come because you are on TV or because of the number of adherents in a particular denomination but rather authority comes from the word of God!

**14** And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature.

## **1. Cares**

### Martha and Mary

**38** Now as they went on their way, Jesus<sup>d</sup> entered a village. And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house. **39** And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching. **40** But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me." **41** But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, **42** but one thing is necessary.<sup>s</sup> Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her."

Jesus tells us that just as he feeds the birds of the air and clothes the grass of the field so he is going to take care of our every needs! His command is that we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and the promise is that he will give us the things that we need!

## **Riches**

**just like the cares of life, riches have the ability to choke out our love for God!**

The Bible gives us strong warnings about its dangers

### **Matthew 6: 24**

**24**“No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.

1 Timothy 6:17

**17**As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy.

### **Revelation 3:17 – 19**

**17**For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. **18**I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. **19**Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.

Just as Christ with eyes of blazing fire searched the hearts of the church of Laodicea is searching the hearts of his church today in order to see which God we serve in the secret place of our hearts!

## **When you enter the land**

### **Pleasures of Life**

**the pleasures of life act in very much the same way as cares and riches choking out our devotion towards God.**

The devil would like nothing more than for us to accept a cheap counterfeit in order that we might sell our birthright!

Living for fleeting pleasures is like a little child who is the air to great fortunes trading is in terror tents for a bowl of ice cream!

**15As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.**

I am in awe at the productivity that we see in agriculture and a plant's ability to reproduce itself and to be fruitful.

Example 1 corn cob on average contains around 700 kernels which if saved represent 700 new plants. Each plant however will produce more than one corncob. As you can see in a very short amount of time it would be possible to feed entire cities and nations and the world!

I have to believe that this is God's desire his people to multiply and fill the entire Earth, writing the knowledge of salvation!

**We now come back to the original question that was posed and ask Whose fault is it? In light of what we have studied in God's word**

**Is it the seeds fault? Did the word of God fail?**

**Nether is it the sowers falt!**

**But rather the blame falls to the soil which represents Man!**

On judgment day there will be no one to point the finger to but ourselves  
what then is needed?

There is a timeless message that has been preached by the profits of old in crisis hours. In Desperate hours of the need throughout history God sends men to preach, thus saith the Lord, to preach his heart, His will for the nation to repent or perish. To turn away from idolatry and immorality and sin and love of self and turn towards the mercy and grace of God!

What is the solution for our hard hearts for this hard soil?

Jeremiah 4:3-4

**3**For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem:

“Break up your fallow ground,  
and sow not among thorns.

**4**Circumcise yourselves to the Lord;  
remove the foreskin of your hearts,  
O men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem;  
lest my wrath go forth like fire,  
and burn with none to quench it,  
because of the evil of your deeds.”

**12***Sow for yourselves righteousness;  
reap steadfast love;  
break up your fallow ground,  
for it is the time to seek the Lord,  
that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.*

This is the urgent and pressing word from God that is for those who are lost as well as lukewarm Christians!

We must repent in order that we might receive the word and to keep in that repentance by removing the weeds that desire to choke us out!

And what is this word that we are to receive

is it not that

[23](#)..all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, [24](#)and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, **Romans 3:23-24**

**we have all rebelled and committed treason against a perfect and good King and therefore our punishment is deserved!**

[9](#)Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” **Luke 3:9**

yet God in his infinite mercy and grace has provided a narrow way of escape in Jesus Christ his son whom he put forth as a substitute to die in our place satisfying the wrath of God towards lawbreakers

**Posibly and over arching summery sin compromise**

[2 Chronicles 34:27](#)

*Note that blindness is self-induced*

and what is that word

soften our hearts! In larger hearts make us like children warm our hearts but then not be cold and dead

in order that we might receive the Word **GRACE**

fulfillment first time word is sown

Gospel

[Ezekiel 36:26](#)