



PARABLES

Sowing Seed

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Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

✝ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, Again He^(Jesus) began to teach by the sea (of Galilee in Capernaum) and such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat on the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. ² And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,

Luke 8:4 NIV & Mark 4:1-2 NASB

After the word had spread that Jesus was back in Capernaum so many people had arrived to hear Him Preach/Teach and for them to be Blessed, healed, and forgiven by Him, the crowds were now so large that our Lord led everyone to the sea while His Apostles and Disciples gathered the people along the sea shore where Jesus set out in a fishing boat most likely belonging to Peter or perhaps John's father out upon the water just a little bit so all could see and hear Him.

Now Jesus begins teaching with a parable.

Yes, we know a parable is a story that conveys a moral lesson.

But what is the exact Biblical meaning of a "parable?"

From the Classic Websters Bible Dictionary a parable is:

"Allegorical representation of something real in nature or human affairs whence a moral is drawn."

While the 2nd definition is: "A favorite method of Oriental teaching."

Now again "parables" defined from the Pastor's reference Interpreters Dictionary of the Bible:

"The purpose of parabolic saying then is the provision of a vivid illustrative example for wisdom teaching and may derive from the tendency toward parallelism in gnomic utterances" end quote.

Within His Gospels Christ our Lord details no less than 30 distinct parables with many of them not only using natural or human examples but also including Jewish custom and or Biblical Mosaic Law.

Jesus Continues

✝ Listen to this! Behold, the Sower went out to sow; ⁴ as he was sowing, some seed fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Other seed fell on the rocky ground where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. ⁸ Other seeds fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred times as much." ⁹ And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Mark 4: 3-9 NASB

Unlike planting a seed sowing is a means of scattering seed randomly by hand tossing or even in Jesus Time by using an Ox dropping it from bags of seed placed on their backs with holes in the bottom for seed to fall out upon unplowed as in unprepared ground to find naturally where it can germinate and take root.

“Let Him who has ears hear” is always said by Christ Jesus in each of His Gospels or within His Revelation when referring to a Spiritual lesson within a parable or other Biblical narrative.

Even if said story passages do contain an obvious natural moral lesson on the surface, Jesus is then also hinting for us to look even deeper because there is even more Biblical meaning for those who are able and willing to comprehend and accept such additional Theological understanding upon any said Scripture.

As in what we just read Jesus said: “Let those with ears hear” there is an obvious moral narrative which does also always allude to a deeper Spiritual comprehension to be found.

Continuing

✝ 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. ¹² For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. Matthew 13:10-12ESV

Up front Jesus states Biblical knowledge is for those whom will inherit the Kingdom of GOD.

When Jesus introduces here the thought which He will echo again at a later time: “from the one who has not then even what they have will be taken from them” and as Lord Jesus continues “the one who has much will be given even what was taken from the one who has little.” can be without the insight of Spiritual understanding be quite puzzling and troubling.

This be until the realization of what our Lord was referring to was any actual natural Spiritual insight a person may have had up to the point that they did reject Jesus as their Christ then fades away.

Time and again Jesus explains that a person ignoring or dismissing their very own feelings and introspect as for understanding their need for GOD- will ultimately in time harden within their own heart by their continual resistance to Jesus. You know denying truth gets easier each time it is denied.

Sad to say that for some people denial of GOD becomes easier with practice and then unfortunately any natural Divine insight they may have originally had can be totally willfully lost.

Where as it is wonderfully true that those Saved in Christ gain and strengthen their Faith in His time.

Jesus explains

✝ This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah which says:

‘You shall indeed hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive. ¹⁵ For this people’s heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and turn for me to heal them.’

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ Truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. Matthew 13:13-17 RSV

Here below are the verses Jesus just quoted from the Prophet Isaiah when He was taken to Heaven in a vision as for the teaching of the unbelieving with unexplained parables.

Hint: it is to condemn them who chose to remain apart from GOD & live within their Sin.

Christ teaches us to give His Gospel freely to everyone but then again to always think wisely before giving His deeper Spiritual insights to those not yet ready to receive and accept them.

This is because the Holiness of GOD'S Law then becomes ridiculed, mocked, and even despised by those who are not yet ready to know that GOD'S Law is for the benefit of everyone.

Those unsaved only see Biblical restrictions upon their morality & behavior with a required reverence unto Holy GOD as cumbersome while in actuality GOD'S Word condemns them within their Sin.

✠ Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

Matthew 7:6 KJV

Isaiah in Heaven, Jesus just quoted this:

The Lord's petition becomes Isaiah's commission:

✠ Then I (Isaiah) heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

⁹ He said, "Go and tell this people:

"Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving."

¹⁰ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn and be healed."

¹¹ Then I said, "For how long, Lord?"

And he answered:

"Until the cities lie ruined and without inhabitant, until the houses are left deserted and the fields ruined and ravaged,

¹² until the LORD has sent everyone far away and the land is utterly forsaken.

¹³ And though a tenth remains (remnant saved) in the land, it will again be laid waste.

But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down,

so the holy seed (remnant) will be the stump in the land."

Isaiah 6:8-13 NIV

Get that?

Just as Isaiah was instructed that parables were a warning unto the unbelieving, so parables were also to the unbelieving in Jesus Time. Even unto the destruction of Israel (twice so far for rebellion & yet future again by antichrist) for having much light of GOD with His knowledge and Blessings in a prosperous nation yet doomed to destruction for not recognizing GOD'S Faithfulness unto them.

Any of that sound familiar as for us today right here in the good ole US of A?

"Lest they turn and be Saved" means minus an actual repentance, this be for those seeking a legal truism in place of any real Spiritual submission and acceptance meaning a literal conversion to Christ.

This was particularly true of those Scribes & Pharisees whom were present during the actual presentation of this parable. This is also true for anyone down through the ages just trying to slide by on a perceived Theological technicality (I'm not a bad person I did more good than harm etc.) in order to avoid any negative consequences between themselves and GOD for their stubborn unyielding of disbelief.

As in people trying to out smart GOD in order to be admitted into Heaven on their own terms.

✝ This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Dr. Luke 8:11-14 NIV

Notice the Sower as in the one spreading of GOD'S Word is tasked to sow even though they know not which seeds shall grow.

In fact many and most seed may not take root but yet the one that does will bear much fruit!

Indeed Christ our Lord informs that there are four types of people with four types of hearts as for being receptive to Jesus's Gospel truth.

First are those comfortable living and walking daily upon this life's well worn heavily trodden path. Jesus here for reference replaced "birds" with "devil."

Meaning people, even family or friends not aligned with Jesus can and often will dissuade others interested in Jesus from attaining Christ's Faith by Grace.

This be in order to keep everyone the same within their herd otherwise they too must consider Christ.

As in often those living comfortably in what they deem to be a normal life are actually harboring a much hardened heart apart from GOD and His Way of life.

While unfortunately many or even most people dare not or are not willing to deviate from the Sin that they comfortably live in.

Even eventually to having a heavy heart of stone that no truth whatsoever can make any difference.

So in the end the evil of this world consume GOD'S truth because this person wants it to be removed.

Rocky ground are those living in turmoil in this world who are initially pleased to hear GOD'S Word but because of the stone in the ground the shallowness and unsuitability or deep unwillingness to change for Christ this conceals their inner most thoughts, motivations, and personal hesitations.

Then when the sun this be the trails of this life do come, those without a true Faith taking root, the seed or Word of GOD withers & dies inside the person who knows they should believe & receive Jesus.

This type of person knows what they should do as in being receptive to GOD but lacks the inner strength and personal directive to honor a life sustaining commitment to Jesus Christ.

So in time they fade and fall away.

Seed amongst thorns.

Faith even with the root of Belief can become entangled with the things, thoughts, and desires of this world. Distractions come in many shapes and excuses be it work or even excessive responsibilities, leisure or chronic busyness. This can also be especially true of our victories with their excess of success. Question? In Heaven will we be ashamed of what we place as priority today.

Literally by stretching ourselves so thin that even GOD has to wait to get in- our lives that is.

Preoccupation of worldly things hinder thusly denying what we could do and be in the Lord.

Good soil are those who accept the Will and Word of GOD while putting Faith into practice.

Notice Jesus said persevering meaning just like anything else what is good often takes much effort.