

The Parable Of The Sower

Matt. 13:3-9

Introduction:

- A. What is a parable?
 - 1. *Para* (beside)- *bole* (set): “to set beside” hence a comparison. (Vine)
 - 2. A story (not fable) from natural events to illustrate spiritual lesson by analogy.
- B. Why did Jesus use parables?
 - 1. To teach the honest.
 - 2. To further confuse the dishonest - as a judgment. (13:10-17).
 - 3. To fulfil O. T. prophecy. (13:34, 35).
- C. What are the benefits and dangers of parables?
 - 1. We can see spiritual truth more clearly from them.
 - 2. We can abuse them by making comparisons never intended.
- D. What about the parable of the sower?
 - 1. It compares the spread of the kingdom of God to sowing a crop.
 - 2. It shows that the spread of the kingdom depends on *three factors*.

Discussion:

I. THE SOWER.

- A. He must sow - idleness will not produce a crop. (cf. Acts 8:4).
- B. He must sow plenty - not all sown will produce. (cf. 2 Cor. 9:6).
- C. He must sow in faith and hope - leave increase to God. (1 Cor. 3:6; Is. 55:10,11).

II. THE SEED.

- A. The word of God. (13:19; Lk. 8:11).
 - 1. This is assumed in this parable - next one deals with tares.
 - 2. It is able to save. (1 Pet. 1:23; Jas. 1:21; Rom. 1:16).
- B. *Only* the word of God - seed produces after its kind.
 - 1. New Testament will produce the kingdom anywhere it is sown.
 - 2. New Testament will produce Christians only. (Acts 11:26).
 - a. Baptized believers. (Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 8)
 - b. New Testament churches.
 - 3. Human doctrines and creeds produce something else.

III. THE SOIL.

- A. The real point of this parable.
 - 1. The sower did his job well.
 - 2. The crop depended on the soil - the heart of the hearers.
- B. Accounts for a variety of results.
 - 1. The way-soil (hard beaten path) is the hard heart. (4,9).
 - 2. The stony soil is the shallow heart. (5,6 - 20,21).
 - a. Conversion is superficial - think want to be Christians.
 - b. Do not want pay the price.
 - 3. The Thorny soil represents the worldly heart. (7,22 - Luke 8:14).
 - 4. The Good soils represents honest hearts of a variety of abilities. (8,23).

Conclusion:

- A. The sower can go so far.
 - 1. He can select good seed. - Know the word.
 - 2. He can sow bountifully to extent of ability and opportunity.
- B. The sower to leave the matter there.
 - 1. God gives the increase - Sower has no control here.
 - 2. Soils must be of right kind - Sower does not control this.