

THE SOWER SOWS THE WORD

Matthew 13:4

Mark 4:4-20

Jesus talked to the people in stories, or parables. They were designed in such a way as to teach a spiritual truth – but only those who were interested to learn and know would be able to discern or understand what Jesus was saying.

Jesus told His disciples that if they could understand this parable, then they could understand all the rest of them. So it is important for us to understand this parable, too.

There are two kingdoms in this earth. The kingdom of darkness, and the Kingdom of God. They both operate very differently. Satan is the god of this world's system, and Jesus is the King of the Kingdom of God.

When we are born again, we are automatically spiritually removed from the kingdom of darkness and translated into the Kingdom of Light. Colossians 1:13.

But because we have been trained and educated in the world's system of darkness, many of us continue to live as if we still belong in the kingdom of darkness. We have been translated to the Kingdom of Light but we still live and act like we are in the kingdom of darkness. This is not right. You have been born into another kingdom. You have rights and privileges in that kingdom.

Let's say you were born into a country that had a king for a leader. You were born into a poor family, and had very little money or food to eat, or anything. Then one day, an official representative of the king comes and tells you that you are an heir of the king.

Well, you would immediately go and live with the king and partake of his wealthy abundance. But if you insisted upon wearing your dirty sandals, and old torn clothes to his table, how do you think that would make him feel?

Here he has given you his name, and he has given you his wealth, and you are now part of his family, and yet you insist on wearing rags and eating rotten food and riding a horse instead of driving in the nice new car he provided for you.

This would be an insult to the king, wouldn't it? All these wonderful things had been provided for you, but you don't enjoy them because you hold on to your old life of poverty and lack.

God is the King, and you are that person who has been born into His Kingdom. He has already provided everything you need to prosper and be in health. We have to learn how to appropriate it so we can enjoy it.

This is where the Parable of the Sower comes in. Jesus is explaining to us how things work in our new Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

God is a farmer. Much of the Bible uses farming ideas, concepts and terms to explain things. God originated farming so He knows how it works.

In Genesis 1 we see that everything reproduces after its own kind. Horses reproduce horses, sunflower seeds reproduce sunflowers, fish reproduce fish, and people reproduce people. This is both a natural and spiritual law. Everything reproduces after its own kind.

Genesis 8:22, God made a promise to Noah, and said that as long as the earth remained, there would be seedtime and harvest. The earth is still here, and so that scripture is true. Everything works on seedtime and harvest.

Now let's go to the Parable of the Sower in Mark 4:4-20. Jesus begins to teach the people using a parable or a story.

His disciples ask Jesus to explain it to them so they can understand it better. So Jesus tells them that it is for them to understand it. And then He explains

The sower sows the WORD. What is the Word? It is the Word of God.

Your Bible is a bag of seed! Say that with me. “My Bible is a bag of seed!” Everything you need for this life is in your bag of seed. Your Bible should become your most valuable possession. In it is the key to your success. It is your bag of seed, that if properly sown will produce a harvest of abundant and healthy living.

The Word of God is the seed. What do we do with natural seed? We put it into SOIL. What do you think the spiritual soil is? IT IS YOUR HEART. It is the innermost part of you.

Now let’s read about the sower sowing the Word

Four types of ground:

1. HARD GROUND

This is the person who hears the word, but does not receive it. Satan comes and immediately steals the Word so it cannot take root and produce.

2. STONY GROUND

This is the person who hears the Word of God and receives it, but his heart is shallow. The seed cannot take root because the ground is shallow and when persecution comes for the Word’s sake, they are offended and do not produce.

People laugh at you for being a Christian

Bringing your Bible to church, and reading it every day

Praying over your meals

3. THORNY GROUND

This is the person who hears the Word of God and receives it and the Word begins to take root and grow and has the potential to produce great things, but the person lets his PRIORITIES of other things, choke out the Word of God.

He starts spending less time protecting the seed and cultivating it so it will grow strong. He gets busy with other things, even helping in the church. He may even get involved in good things, but the Word does not grow.

4. GOOD GROUND

This is the person who receives the Word with joy, lets it take root and develop. He protects it, waters it and is not offended, and does not allow other priorities to choke out the Word and kill it.

Instead he is the one that reaps the benefit of the seeds sown and produces 30, 60 or 100 times.

HOW DO WE BECOME ONE WHO PRODUCES A HARVEST?

1. Sow the Word of God into the soil of your heart every day.
2. Water the seeds with more of the Word of God.
3. Don't let negative or neutral words steal your seed.
4. Don't let other things become a priority.
5. Be patient and stay in faith expecting the harvest to come.
6. Reap and enjoy the harvest when it comes!