

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. (Mt 13:10-17).
3. To fulfil O. T. prophecy. (Mt 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 the preeminence of this one parable - Mark 4.13
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; Isa 55:10,11).

II. THE SEED.

- A. The word of God. (Matt 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. (Matt 13.4,19).
 2. The stony soil is the shallow heart. (Mt 13.5, 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. (Mt 13.7, 22; Luke 8:14).
 4. The Good soil represents honest hearts of a variety of abilities. (Mt 13.8,23).

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.