

A wide-angle photograph of a tropical beach. The foreground is filled with golden sand, showing some footprints and small pieces of debris. The ocean is a vibrant turquoise color, with gentle waves lapping at the shore. The sky is a deep, clear blue with a few wispy white clouds scattered across it. The horizon line is straight and divides the image roughly in half.

Where You At?

Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 (Topical Message)

The Word of God is living & active:

Hebrews 4:12 (NASB)

¹² For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

It divides the Soul (Mind, Will, Emotions) from the Spirit, so the Spirit can reveal the truths of God to one's mind. The Word through the Spirit judges the thoughts & intentions of one's heart to see if they are from God, or from the world, the flesh or the Devil.

The Word of God goes forth and doesn't return empty:

Isaiah 55:11 (NASB)

¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

The written word, or God's spoken word through man doesn't return empty. God's word accomplishes what it is intended to accomplish. That's why is so important to preach and teach using the word of God. It goes forth and accomplishes what God intends. If a preacher tells stories from the pulpit, and doesn't use God's word in his messages. Those messages return empty. They might be eloquent, and they might appear spiritual. But if they are not based on using the word of God. They are empty!

The Word of God (Cross – Gospel Message) is foolishness for those who are perishing:

1 Corinthians 1:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Brothers and Sisters – The Word of God (Gospel Message) is going forth out into this world and all men will hear it at least once. In Romans 1:20 it says man is without excuse to say they there isn't a God, and there isn't forgiveness of sins and there isn't spiritual life by belief in Jesus Christ! All man will hear the Gospel message.

Have you ever wondered why some believe the Gospel and some don't?

Have you ever wondered why some ask for forgiveness of their sins and some don't?

Brothers & Sisters – The answer is that we are in a Spiritual war with the dark forces of Satan and his demons who are actively and continually blinding the eyes of the unbelieving:

2 Corinthians 4:4 (NASB)

⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Brothers & Sisters – We are in a Spiritual war even if you acknowledge it or not. Jesus explains this in a spiritual warfare in a parable from Matthew 13:3-9. Then in verses 18-23, Jesus explains the meaning of this parable. In this parable, Jesus describes 4 types of people who hear the Word of God (Gospel Message) and how that message is received in their lives. I want to look at these 4 types of people today.

To those listening to this message, I want you ask yourself, what type of person are you are as described by Jesus in the **“Parable of the Sower”**. Thus, the Title of my Message **“Where You At?”**

4 Types of People:

- 1. Don't Understand the Gospel**
- 2. Don't Really Believe the Gospel**
- 3. Don't Really Trust in the Gospel**
- 4. Truly Believe the Gospel**

Matthew 13:3-9 (NASB)

³ And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴ and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. ⁵ "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ "Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. ⁸ "And others fell on the good soil and *yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹ "He who has ears, let him hear."

What's a Parable?

A Parable is an Earthly Story with a Spiritual meaning. Jesus told 38 **different** parables in the Gospels (some are repeated in the Gospels of Mark & Luke – no parables are in the Gospel of John!).

For example, the parable we are looking at today is **also recorded** in Mark 4:3-20, and in Luke 8:5-15.

Why did Jesus tell stories using Parables? Jesus explains this also in these passages. Men who are spiritually hungering for God's truth in Parables will understand them, but those who reject Christ and don't hunger for God will not.

The Parable we are looking at today is named ***“The Parable of the Sower” by Jesus!***

What is a Sower?

Matthew 13:3 (NASB)

³ And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow

Matthew 13:18 (NASB)

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower.

Definition of a Sower (Merriam Websters) – A person who plants seeds or a tool for planting seed.

Illustration

I always will remember my ***dad*** who lived in Spring Lake Heights NJ having the best lawn I have ever seen. It was like a carpet and always a deep green color. Why was that the case, because he was always through grass seed on the ground. He was always seeding. He just walked around and threw down seed. He didn't care if it germinated or not, and he didn't even water it. If the seed grew great, but if didn't, he didn't care.

This is what a sower does – it's a person who plants seeds (scatters seed)!

Types of People:

1. Don't Understand the Gospel

Matthew 13:4 (NASB)

⁴ and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

Matthew 13:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

Seeds – Word of the Kingdom / Birds – Evil One

Are you a person who heard the Word of God (Gospel) and don't understand it?

In this parable, Jesus tells us that the Evil One has come and snatched away what someone hears and were processing in their hearts in trying to understand what they heard about the Gospel Message (Word of God).

How does Satan do this? I'm not sure, but the Evil is capable of doing this in the Demonic realm!

These types of people are spiritually dead, still in their Sins (In Adam) and in a state of confusion in their understanding the Gospel (Word of God)!

Types of People:

1. Don't Really Believe the Gospel

Matthew 13:5-6 (NASB)

⁵ "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Matthew 13:20-21 (NASB)

²⁰ "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

Rocky Soil – Hears the Word and immediately Receives it with Joy superficially

Sun / Scorched / No Roots/ Withers – Belief isn't real, temporary, afflictions/persecutions fall away from the Word of God

Are you a person who has heard the Word of God (Gospel) and initially received it with Joy, but when hard times came upon you when you attempted to follow the Word of God, you have walked away from God?

Over the years of being a Christian, I have seen many who profess to be a Christian and they seem to believe and are on fire for God in the early stages of apparent belief, but sometime in the near future they abandon the faith and the Word of God. **Why is this the case?** Because Satan rules the world system we live in!

1 John 5:19b (NASB)

^{19b} the whole world lies in *the power of* the evil one.

Ephesians 2:2 (NASB)

² in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience.

Satan initiates affliction & persecution on men who are on the verge of exercising saving faith in the Gospel message. This comes in all sorts of ways and from all different directions in one's life:

Some people hear the Word of God and Satan twists their understanding to think that God's only purpose in their life is to prosper and continually bless them if they believe. They receive that false Gospel with joy. Why not, God is looked upon as one's cash register in the heaven and He will give me everything to make me rich with material things. When this doesn't happen (It won't – it's not biblical), and pressures mount in life from the Evil One, they walk away from God.

These types of people are spiritually dead, still in their Sins (In Adam) and never genuinely believed the real Gospel (Word of God)!

Types of People:

1. Don't Really Trust in the Gospel

Matthew 13:7 (NASB)

⁷ "Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

Matthew 13:22 (NASB)

²² "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Choking Thorns – Worries of the world and Pursuit of Wealth

Are you a person who has heard the Word of God (Gospel), but are consumed by worry and have substituted the accumulation of wealth for a relationship with God?

Over the years of being a Christian, I have seen many who profess to be a Christian in the early stages of apparent belief, but sometime in the near future they abandon the faith and the Word of God because they don't trust in God to meet all their (Physical & Spiritual) needs. Instead, they are consumed with worry and the accumulation of wealth for security. ***Why is this the case?***

Because Satan has blinded their eyes, and diverted them away from God to meet their needs, to thinking money will meet ***all their needs.***

Brothers & Sisters – The Word of God says God will meet all our needs:

Philippians 4:19 (NASB)

¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Brothers & Sisters – The Word of God (Jesus) says we need not worry:

Luke 12:22 (NASB)

²² And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about *your* life, *as to* what you will eat; nor for your body, *as to* what you will put on.

These types of people are spiritually dead, still in their Sins (In Adam) and never genuinely trusted in the Gospel (Word of God)!

Does this Describe you?

- 1. Are you a person who heard the Word of God (Gospel) and don't understand it?*
- 2. Are you a person who has heard the Word of God (Gospel) and initially received it with Joy, but when hard times came upon you when you attempted to follow the Word of God, you have walked away from God?*
- 3. Are you a person who has heard the Word of God (Gospel), but are consumed by worry and have substituted the accumulation of wealth for a relationship with God, and walked away from Him?*

If that describes you – You need your sins forgiven and you need Spiritual life!

A. Do you sense something is wrong in your life?

B. You have made a mess of things by your wrong choices in life?

**C. You have tried to fill the hole in your heart with things of the world – never satisfying
(Relationships, Career, Wealth, Drugs, Alcohol)?**

**D. Do you admit you have done wrong things in your life and you need forgiveness of your
sins?**

**E. Did you think you were a Christian at one point in your life, but walked away from God
years ago not genuinely believing in Jesus Christ?**

F. You have tried to read the Bible and it doesn't make sense?

G. Has the pursuit of money in your life has made you empty and unfulfilled?

H. Do you hunger for something and don't know what it is!

I. Has Jesus described you in the 1st 3 persons in the "Parable of the Sower"?

Brother or Sister – You need Christ!

Christ will forgive your sins, give you eternal life, give you spiritual life, be your new source to live life from, will break the power of sin in your life, make you a new person, give you a new purpose, meet all your needs and fill the hole in your heart – Wow!

Prayer:

Jesus, I know that I am a sinner in need of eternal life. Forgive me of my sins and come into my life to be my Lord and Savior. Guide me and teach me all your ways and to depend on you as my life. In Jesus' Name – Amen!

Types of People:

1. Truly Believe the Gospel

Matthew 13:8-9 ⁸ "And others fell on the good soil and *yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. ⁹ "He who has ears, let him hear."

Matthew 13:23 (NASB)

²³ "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

Good Soil Yielding Crops – Hears the Word, understands it and bears fruit, some 100x, 60x and some 30x fold.

Are you a person who has heard the Word of God (Gospel), believed it, continue to believe it and your life has changed for the better since you believed?

Jesus describes you as a person who believes and is bearing fruit. Some bear more fruit than others, but all who believe bear fruit to some degree.

What is Fruit? – It is expressing Christlike Characteristics. For example, Gal 5:22 – The fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Some fruit in a person's life is more noticeable than other types of fruit.

You may notice that a believer is expressing and overflowing with Christ's love. But you may not notice that a person is at peace in their life.

Paul adds against such things there is no law (The Law can't produce Christlikeness).

How does a Believer Bear Fruit? By Abiding – In John 15 Jesus tells us that abiding in Him bears His fruit!



Where You At?

Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 (Topical Message)