



Repentance Tabernacle Church

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The Parable of the Sower!

Focus Verses: Mark 4:2-3 -²And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine, ³Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow.

Lesson Text: Mark 4:1-20

Truth About God: God's Word will grow in the good ground of the heart.

Truth For My Life: I will hear and faithfully obey the Word.

The sower's responsibility is to throw the seeds on the ground that had been prepared for planting and watch the miracle of growth. Jesus compared the sower to those who share the gospel (Mak 4:14). As we share the Word of God with others, we are sowing the seed of truth into their hearts. It is our responsibility to spread the gospel to every living soul. Jesus commissioned His disciples to go *"into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"* (Mark 16:15). Even though the Word is not always received by the hearers, we are not to be discouraged. We faithfully continue to sow, year after year, because we are confident in the principle of the seed: whatever we sow, we will surely reap (Galatians 6:7-9).

As sowers, we know the Word of God is a good seed. Any doctrine other than the truth of the gospel would be a bad seed. *"If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; he is proud, knowing nothing"* (1 Timothy 6:3-4). All we can do is plant the good seed and pray the hearts of those who receive it will be soft and fertile ground, a perfect condition for the seed to grow.

The seed that failed to grow landed on ground that was not conducive to healthy growth. Some landed on hard-packed ground when people walked and birds came and gobbled it up. Some fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. Some fell among the weeds and plants with thorns that choked out the good seed. There are different conditions of the heart to receive the seed of the gospel. **Each person who has the opportunity to hear the Word also has a choice of how to receive it.** The response is in direct relation to the condition of the heart.

Hearing the Word with a closed mind (wayside) is like hard soil that is packed down so the seed cannot penetrate the hardened earth. A closed mind is the result of a hardened heart. The stony ground are the people that heard the Word joyfully but did not give it time to develop deep roots. On the surface it appears they embrace truth, but as time reveals, the roots were not deep enough to produce a healthy plant. The thorny ground is a heart that allows the cares of this world to choke out the Word. The uncontrolled addiction of wanting more and more earthly things is a snare that traps us. The seed that fell on good ground, fell upon rich, soft, moist soil, ready for the Word. Those are the hungry souls where we long to plant the wonderful truth of the gospel. Those seeds have the greatest potential to flourish and grow, bringing a harvest and more seeds to be sown later.

James 1:22 tells us, *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."* We prepare our hearts to become doers of the Word when we break up the fallow ground so it is soft and absorbent and make a personal commitment to respond to the Word with a healthy, faithful heart. Jesus knew some of His hearers would not be doers. They would not apply what they heard to their hearts. That is why He said, *"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear"* (Mark 4:9). Jesus was pleading with them to do more than listen—to perceive every word and pull it into their minds. The destiny of the seed is bearing fruit for others to see. We should make it our mission to say, **"I will hear and faithfully obey the Word of God today."**

When we hear the Word and it penetrates our hearts, we are called to action. Just as Noah rose up and built an ark to save his family from the Flood, so we feel the urgency to respond to the commands in God's Word. We discover the joy of walking in fellowship with the Lord. As we find our sure footing, rooted in His truth, we long to share with those we come in contact with so they can be saved also.