

It Takes All Kinds

Mt 13:1-9

INTRODUCTION

- A. "It takes all kinds to make the world go around."
 - 1. Different kinds of people add spice to our lives; they make life interesting.
 - 2. Yet, different people view Scripture differently.
- B. The disciples seem to have been concerned that great multitudes were not being converted by Jesus.
 - 1. Jesus spoke this parable to encourage these disciples.
 - 2. The failure for conversion may not rest with the teacher but with the hearer.
- C. A sower went out to sow.
 - 1. The sower would stand for one who taught God's Word.
 - 2. The seed would be the Word of God (Lk 8:11).

SEED SOWN BY THE WAYSIDE, v 4

- A. The sower threw some seed on the wayside; the birds came & devoured the seed.
- B. In Jesus' day, waysides were rather common.
 - 1. There were no fences to mark property boundaries; small paths filled this purpose.
 - 2. Because these paths saw much traffic, the soil became rather hard.
 - a. Some of these paths became as hard as cement.
 - b. No seed could penetrate this hard soil.
- C. Jesus explains the meaning of this soil, v 19.
 - 1. This person hears God's Word but he does not understand it.
 - 2. Satan comes & devours this seed.
 - a. Satan can devour the seed through doubt.
 - 1) Gn 3:1.
 - 2) Satan may ask us, "Does God really mean that?"
 - b. Satan can devour the seed through false teaching.
 - 1) Since its inception, the church has been plagued with false teachers.
 - 2) The church in Pergamum had false teachers who encouraged eating food sacrificed to idols & sexual immorality (Rev 2:14).
 - 3) False teach still abounds & leads many astray.
- D. We need to be careful lest we have hard hearts.
 - 1. Heb 3:13.
 - 2. Prov 28:14.
- E. Is your heart hard?

SEED SOWN IN ROCKY SOIL, vv 5-6

- A. This soil did not have much earth.
 - 1. The seeds sprang up quickly.
 - 2. They died just as quickly because they had no root.
- B. In Palestine, there is much rocky soil.
 - 1. This rocky soil has limestone lying just beneath the soil.
 - 2. When seed is sown there, it germinates quickly.
 - a. The limestone holds water close to the seed.
 - b. The limestone helps the seed absorb sunlight.
 - c. Because of the water & sunshine, the seed quickly sprouts.
 - d. However, because the seed can grow no roots, the sprout quickly dies.
- C. Jesus explains this soil, vv 20-21.
 - 1. This person readily accepts the gospel.
 - 2. Yet, when tribulation or persecution comes along, he quickly falls away.

- D. This person wanted an easy Christianity
 1. This person is only faithful a short while when things are going well.
 2. The moment this person's Christian life becomes difficult, he leaves.
- E. We must be careful that we do not leave the faith.
 1. Lk 9:62.
 2. Heb 10:38.
- F. Are you falling away like this soil? Do you want an "easy" Christianity?

THE THORNY SOIL, v 7

- A. The seed falls among this soil & the thorns choke the seed.
- B. Jesus explains this soil, v 22.
 1. This person hears the word, but the cares of this world & the deceitfulness of riches become powerful.
 2. This person becomes unfruitful--He is more concerned with worldly things than with heavenly things.
- C. This world can cause individuals to leave the Lord.
 1. Mt 6:24.
 2. 2 Tm 4:10.
 3. 1 Tm 6:9.
- D. Do you care more about the things of this world than the gospel?

THE GOOD SOIL, v 8

- A. This seed falls on good ground & produces a crop.
- B. Jesus explains this soil, v 23.
 1. This person hears & understands the word.
 2. This person produces fruit.
- C. We need to give ourselves opportunities to hear & understand the word.
 1. We need to ask God for wisdom to understand Scripture (Js 1:5).
 2. We need to attend Bible study whenever that's possible.
 3. We must study Scripture to understand it.
- D. We need to bear fruit.
 1. We need to bear the fruit of another Christian (Jn 15:8).
 2. We need to bear the fruit of good lives (Gal 5:22-23).

CONCLUSION

- A. What type of soil are you?
- B. Are you bringing a harvest?