

KINGDOM SOWING

PART 1

Text: Luke 8:4-15

During the time of Jesus, farmers sowed seeds primarily by scattering them by hand. A farmer would carry the seeds in a large woven pouch or fold of their cloak, walking through the fields and throwing the seeds in a sweeping motion. The parable we just read is the first parable spoken by Jesus recorded in scripture. It uses the metaphor of a farmer scattering seed over different kinds of ground to illustrate the different responses people have hearing the word of God. Even though the story is simple, it reveals deeper spiritual truth. The three major components of the story are the sower, the seed, and the soil. The point of the parable is the responses and the results of the word of God being sown across humanity.

The disciples asked the Lord what the parable meant so that meant even they didn't understand its point. Jesus began to break the parable down by telling them what everything meant:

The seed – He said that the seed is the word of God. Inside every seed is a self-contained life support and growth system for a new plant. The word of God is compared to a seed because it is alive, contains hidden potential, and requires planting in a receptive heart to grow.

- **It's powerful** - **Jeremiah 23:29** *Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces? The word of God has the power to break a hard heart or heat up a cold.*
- **It's piercing** - **Hebrews 4:12** *For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. It can pierce right into your depths and judge your thoughts and motives.*
- **It can procreate** – **1 Peter 1:23** *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. It has the ability to reproduce, generate and bring forth new life.*

The soils – The seeds fell in different places where there were different kinds of soils which yielded different responses.

- **Some fell by the wayside** – The problem here is there is NO SOIL to receive the seed. This teaches that when people either cannot or will not receive the message, it cannot germinate in their heart, and the word will be quickly snatched away by the

devil. In Matthew's gospel he said they hear it but don't understand it. Also, if the listener is determined not to hear the message, it will do them no good. The enemy keeps the seed from doing its work by moving the hearer quickly on to something else until they have forgotten they ever heard the truth.

- **Some fell upon a rock** – The problem here is that there are NO ROOTS to sustain the plant. Jesus said these people receive the message with joy, but the seed didn't go down deep enough to grow roots because there was rock under a thin layer of soil. They believe for awhile but fall away due to difficulty. This kind of ground shows that some people hear the word, their emotions are stirred, but their will was never affected. The difficulty didn't come to destroy them but to reveal them.
- **Some fell among thorns** – These people receive the word, and it takes root in their hearts. The problem is that the soil of their heart is contaminated with thorns and it chokes the seed from bringing fruit forth (WHICH WAS THE PURPOSE OF SOWING IT). The fruit is the Christ-like CHARACTER and CONDUCT that the word of God produces. These hearts receive the word but can't bring forth the fruit intended because they are focused on THIS LIFE. The cares, riches and pleasures of this life consume them, and they don't become or do what Christ intended for them.
- **Some fell on good ground** – In the Bible, the "heart" represents the core of person's being – the center of the thoughts, emotions, and will. When you hear the word of God and believe it, it goes to your core and takes root. The goal of sowing the word is that the hearer will understand it, receive it, and put it into practice. It will transform your internal beliefs and external actions. To keep the word means to treasure it and meditate on it until it influences your daily life both inside and out.

The sower – Jesus never says anything about the sower though many think that it's him. He doesn't spend any time on the sower because anyone can sow the seed. **1 Corinthians 3:5-7** Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.

Is the word of God producing anything in your life?

Is Jesus getting anything back from his investment in your life?