

FRUITFULNESS: CULTIVATING THE GOOD SOIL

Matthew 13:3-9

(Mat 13:3 KJV) And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; (Mat 13:4 KJV) And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: (Mat 13:5 KJV) Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: (Mat 13:6 KJV) And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. (Mat 13:7 KJV) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: (Mat 13:8 KJV) But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. (Mat 13:9 KJV) Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

I. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

- A. ***Seed fell on way side***--devoured by the fowls of the air; did not understand the Word.
- B. ***Seed fell on stony ground***--withered because of lack of depth; did not have good root system.
- C. ***Seed fell among thorns***--choked by the cares of this life.
- D. Seed fell on good ground--produced thirty-fold, sixty-fold, hundred-fold.

II. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: GOOD SOIL.

- A. ***Hears the word and understands it.***
- B. ***Bears fruit--some 30-fold, some 60-fold, some 100-fold.***

III. HOW WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD.

- A. ***Why the Word does not have effect in our lives of producing fruit.***
- B. ***We can tie the hands of God; make the Word of God of none effect.***
- C. ***We can be hearers of the Word, but not doers.***
- D. ***We may not be willing to pay the necessary price.***
 - 1. It takes commitment and dedication.
 - 2. Commitment and dedication takes time and effort.
 - 3. It may even requires some sacrifices.
 - 4. More importantly, it requires obedience.

IV. WE HAVE BEEN LIKENED UNTO A GARDEN OR A VINEYARD.

- A. ***Disappointment of result.***
 - 1. (Isa 5:1 KJV) Now will I sing to my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. My well beloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: (Isa 5:2 KJV) And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine, and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.
 - 2. (Isa 5:4 KJV) What could have been done more to my vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes?
 - 3. (Isa 5:7 KJV) For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry.
- B. ***Parable of husbandman with 2 sons.*** (Mat 21:28 KJV) But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard.
- C. ***Householder who planted a vineyard.***

1. (Mat 21:33 KJV) Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:
2. (Mat 21:41 KJV) They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

V. THE MAJOR STEPS IN PRODUCING A FRUITFUL CROP.

- A. ***Plowing.***
- B. ***Sowing.***
- C. ***Cultivating.***
- D. ***Proper nourishment and rain.***

VI. PLOWING.

- A. ***Plow in hope.*** (1 Cor 9:10 KJV) Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.
- B. ***Break up fallow ground.***
 1. Definition.
 - a. Plowed and left unseeded for a season or more.
 - b. Uncultivated.
 - c. Not in use; inactive; creative energies lying fallow.
 2. Scriptures.
 - a. (Hosea 10:12 KJV) Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.
 - b. (Isa 28:24 KJV) Doth the plowman plow all day to sow? doth he open and break the clods of his ground?
- C. ***Must be diligent.***
 1. Find excuses not to plow. (Prov 20:4 KJV) The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.
 2. Can't look back.
 - a. (Luke 9:62 KJV) And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.
 - b. (Mat 10:22 KJV) And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.
- D. ***Not unequally yoked.***
 1. (Deu 22:10 KJV) Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass together.
 2. (2 Cor 6:14 KJV) Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

VII. SOWING THE SEED.

- A. ***Laws of sowing and reaping.***
 1. Reap what you sow.
 - a. (Gal 6:7 KJV) Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Gal 6:8 KJV) For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit

- reap life everlasting.
- b. **Right kind of seed--no mixture.** (Deu 22:9 KJV) Thou shalt not sow thy vineyard with divers seeds: lest the fruit of thy seed which thou hast sown, and the fruit of thy vineyard, be defiled.
2. **Reap more than you sow.**
- a. **Starts small; increases.** (Mark 4:31 KJV) It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: (Mark 4:32 KJV) But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.
- b. (2 Cor 9:6 KJV) But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
- B. ***Must protect the seed from the devourer.***
1. **Scriptures.**
 (Judg 6:3 KJV) And so it was, when Israel had sown, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they came up against them; (Judg 6:4 KJV) And they encamped against them, and destroyed the increase of the earth, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.
 (Hag 1:6 KJV) Ye have sown much, and bring in little; ye eat, but ye have not enough; ye drink, but ye are not filled with drink; ye clothe you, but there is none warm; and he that earneth wages earneth wages to put it into a bag with holes.
 (Mat 13:19 KJV) When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.
1. **God will rebuke the devourer for our sakes.** (Mal 3:10 KJV) Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. (Mal 3:11 KJV) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

VIII. CULTIVATING.

- A. ***Cultivation.***
 B. ***Weeded properly.***

IX. PROPER NOURISHMENT AND RAIN.

- A. ***Rain for our seed.***
1. (Isa 30:23 KJV) Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures.
2. (Isa 55:10 KJV) For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
- B. ***It will be rain in due season.***
1. (Deu 11:13 KJV) And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve

him with all your heart and with all your soul, (Deu 11:14 KJV) That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. (Deu 11:15 KJV) And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

2. (Deu 28:12 KJV) The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.

C. ***The former and latter rain.***

(James 5:7 KJV) Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

(Hosea 6:3 KJV) Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.

(Joel 2:23 KJV) Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month. (Joel 2:24 KJV) And the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.

(Zec 10:1 KJV) Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.

- A. ***When there is a drought, we call upon the Lord.*** (2 Chr 6:26 KJV) When the heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; yet if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou dost afflict them; (2 Chr 6:27 KJV) Then hear thou from heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, when thou hast taught them the good way, wherein they should walk; and send rain upon thy land, which thou hast given unto thy people for an inheritance.

THE LORD GIVES US RAIN FROM HEAVEN. (Acts 14:17 KJV)

***Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that
He did good, and
Gave us rain from heaven, and
Fruitful seasons,
Filling our hearts with food and gladness.***