

A Seed Sown in Galilee

Pastor Ben Hunt – May 17, 2020

Primary text – Matthew 13:1-23

Primary point: To an Authentic Christian, The Gospel is Good News to the intellect, affections, and will.

Others of you might have a different struggle. You might be thinking that the rocky soil and the thorny soil describe Christians and that man oh man, this is a promise from Jesus to His chosen people that you can lose your salvation, you can backslide your way right off the cliff and not make it to heaven. So I better get my act together, before I end up scorched by the sun, or choked out by the thorns.

So preaching this text, we have to be careful. We have to be precise in how we articulate the meaning, because it can be so weighty if it is misinterpreted by the Christian. But at the same time, this text does need to be a warning to those that are playing games with their religion. As my voice goes out right now, there are some that are pretending, some that are fooling others and themselves with a façade of righteousness, a veneer where you are following Jesus in name only. and this text is a warning to you, a warning to repent. So he who has ears let them hear!

The seed is the Gospel

The soil is the heart – (the seat of the affections, intellect, and will)

You didn't save you! You did not change your heart of stone to one of flesh! You didn't do that! You can't do that! You were dead in your transgressions and sins! Dead people don't make themselves alive! Jesus does! Did Lazarus call himself out of the tomb? NO! And neither did you. Your faith is a gift from God. Ephesians 2:8-9 "For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith and this (faith) is not of yourselves, but a gift from God, - not by works, so that no one can boast." To say that my salvation is up to me – either gaining it or keeping it... is... to boast!

1 John 2:19 - beloved they were not of us, for if they were of us, they would have continued with us.

John 6:39 – our Shepherd said this. - And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that I shall lose none of those He has given Me, but raise them up at the last day. Jesus wants us to know, he's got us, and he will not let you go anywhere.

Point 1 – The Rocky Soil Received the Gospel in Affections Only.

What are they missing? A true understanding of the Gospel, a full understanding that hits the whole heart. Not just the seat of the emotions but also the intellect and will. The free gift of faith has not been given to them! If it had been given to them, then the roots would extend down deeper, they would hold onto their Savior knowing, if God is for me, who can be against me. Jesus said, when they persecute you, take heart because they persecuted me first! We are brothers! Persecution should bring you joy knowing great is your reward in heaven!

Point 2- The Thorny Soil Received the Gospel in Intellect Only

This third soil / heart is a counterfeit Christian. They look like the part, they sound like the part, and yet their motive is incorrect. It is the concerns of the world, the pleasures of the world that choke out the motive of love, and so all they do is not from a place of love and compassion, but just to get their needs met. To them it is

beneficial to have the name of Jesus attached to their reputation. But they follow Him in name only. When really their affections and will are attached to other idols.

They say they believe, they can articulate the Gospel... Yep, so can the devil. And he trembles... This type of unregenerate soil is failing to tremble. It is this type of heart that may be shocked in the end when they say to Jesus, look at all I have done for you! And He will say, depart from me, I never knew you. No one can serve 2 masters! You will love one and despise the other... and you have loved the world and despised me.

When you see a friend walk away from their faith. When they claim they don't have belief in Jesus anymore, it is not because they have lost their salvation, it is because as 1 John 2:19 beloved they were not of us, for if they were of us, they would have continued with us.

Point 3 – When the Gospel Fully Lands in the Heart, it Always Produces and Exponential Crop.

The tangible fruit that you see in other's lives is NOT the fruit Jesus is talking about!

1 Corinthians 13? **1**If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. **2**And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. **3**If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned,^a but have not love, I gain nothing.

Paul is pointing out that all the evidence that man sees to distinguish fruit is worthless unless it comes from love!

So, the deed is not the fruit! Love is the fruit!!

Application Questions:

1. What does the "seed" represent? What does the "soil" represent?
 - a. What are the 4 types of soil? Which one(s) are truly saved Christians? Why?
2. What are some of the ways this message proves eternal security?
3. Is the "heart" just the emotions? Why or why not?
4. How does a poor interpretation of this passage miss grace and exalt legalism?
5. What is meant by the "Rocky soil receiving the Gospel in affections only"? And the "Thorny soil receiving the Gospel in intellect only"?
6. Which of the 4 soils do you believe you are? Why?
7. How does the Bible define "fruit" in the Christian life?
8. What was most meaningful to you about the message today?