

LUKE Lesson 20

1. The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-15)

19 October 2018

VS 5 Notice that the sower went OUT to sow seed. He is scattering that good seed on various unprepared ground. The sower is not responsible for the condition of the ground. He is responsible to sow (1 Tim 4:2). Don't keep it to yourself (Hag 2:19).

VS 11 **The seed is the word of God.** When you go out to sow seed, make sure it's the word of God that you're sowing. Christians waste a lot of time chit-chatting about vain things and the seed never gets sown.

Make sure you're sowing good seed that hasn't been corrupted (1 Pet 1:23) or something that's been messed with (a hybrid mixture or a seed containing poisonous additives). Deuteronomy 22:9 warns against this. Some seeds will produce a monstrosity (Lk 13:19).

There are a lot of helpful and enjoyable books and commentaries and online sermons available to the Christian. Just make sure those things don't replace the time you spend reading the Bible or you'll water down that good seed and drown it out.

VS 12 **"Those by the wayside"** don't receive the seed because the Devil interfered with their ability to receive it. He makes sure they don't hear it, or they don't believe it and don't receive it into their heart.

Notice that salvation is a matter of belief: **"lest they should believe and be saved."** The Devil will try to get you busy with *"other ways"* to get saved because he knows they'll lead you straight to Hell.

VS 13 **"They on the rock"** are full of joy with they hear the gospel, but they have no root; they don't receive Jesus. Jesus is the "root out of a dry ground" (Isa 53:2). He's the "root of David" (Rev 5:5).

These are people who want what Jesus can give them, but they don't want Jesus. They want their lives and families straightened out magically. When trouble comes up in their lives, and Jesus doesn't produce the results they expect, they move on.

Jesus didn't offer you a life without trouble. He offered you eternal life. The troubles and trials we face in this temporal life help us to mature spiritually.

Don't go out and start sowing some sort of "Health, Wealth, and Prosperity" message. You'll be making promises that Jesus didn't give (Mt 10:35-36). That is going to set people up for a fall at the first sign of trouble.

VS 14 “**That which fell among thorns**” speaks of people who are prevented from receiving the Lord because of three things in their life.

- 1) **The cares of this life** (job, career, retirement savings, family, house, etc.) are more important than knowing Jesus Christ. The people of Noah’s day were too busy for God (Mat 24:37-39).
- 2) **Riches**. God doesn’t say that being rich is sinful. But he warns that riches will make it very difficult to be saved (Deut 8:11-14, Mat 19:23-24). Money solves a lot of problems, but no man can buy his way out of Hell with money.
- 3) **The pleasures of this life**. The Bible doesn’t condemn pleasure. God created things for our pleasure. But when those things mean more to a person than Jesus Christ does, their love for those pleasurable things will keep them from coming to the Lord.

Most of the seed you sow will fall on bad ground and not produce anything. Out of four kinds of ground, only one of them is fruitful. Let that be an encouragement to you. Keep sowing the seed, knowing that some of it will fall on good ground—even though most of it will not. One soul is worth more than the world itself.

VS 15 “**That on the good ground**” speaks of people who have a good heart, ready to receive the seed of the word of God. The results of your sowing is dependent upon the condition of the ground (the heart).

- 1) **An honest heart**. Too many people reject the Bible without even knowing what it says. Be honest enough to read it before you make any eternal decisions. And when you read the truth, don’t make excuses or alibis; apply those truths to yourself and make the necessary decisions and changes if need be.
 - 2) **A good heart**. As soon as you find out how good Jesus has been to you, if you have a good heart, you’ll want to thank Him for what He’s done and get to know Him. Thank God for your upbringing and for all the people who contributed to your good heart, which was receptive to the word of God.
 - 3) **Having heard the word, they keep it**. They hold the word of God and let it guide and rule their life (Psalm 119:105, 2 Pet 1:19, Prov 6:23).
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