

**"The Earthly Kingdom of Jesus Christ"**

**Part 18**

**Matthew 13**

**Introduction:** Last week in our study of the Kingdom we started to look at the parables that Jesus taught in Matthew 13. These parables mark a notable change in Jesus' ministry. He did not speak in parables in Matthew 1-12 but now He will. In Matthew 12 Jesus pulled the offer of the Kingdom to the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jews off the table. The Kingdom that was offered to the Jews would now be postponed. There was now going to be a new age and that would be the period extending from the birth of the church to the return of Jesus Christ at the end of the Tribulation. Today we are 2000 years deep into this interim age. This age will extend beyond the Rapture clear through to Revelation 19 where we read of the return of Jesus Christ to the earth. In Matthew 12 Jesus foretold of turning from the Jews and going to the Gentiles. The parables of Matthew 13 tell of what God will be doing in the interim age. Last week we started into these parables, and we looked at the first parable which is the Parable of the Sower. Tonight I want to revisit this parable because there are things which God permitted me to see this week that I had skipped over last week.

**The Parable of the Sower**

**Part 1**

**Notice Matthew 13:1**

We had touched on this previously but there is something else to see here. Notice closely that Jesus went out of the HOUSE and sat by the sea side. The HOUSE speaks of family and relatives. When Jesus left the HOUSE, this was a picture of Him breaking away from His relatives the Jews.

**Matthew 12:46-50**

<sup>46</sup> While he yet talked to the people, behold, his mother and his brethren stood without, desiring to speak with him.

<sup>47</sup> Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee.

<sup>48</sup> But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?

<sup>49</sup> And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!

<sup>50</sup> For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

This was breaking the ties He had with the Jews. Now He would have a new family and the new family would come from the Gentiles.

**Acts 15:13-14**

<sup>13</sup> And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

<sup>14</sup> Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

**Notice Matthew 13:1 again.**

Jesus went out by the sea which is a picture of the Gentile nations.

**Revelation 17:1, 15**

And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, Come hither; I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:

<sup>15</sup> And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.

Getting back to the point, when Jesus left the HOUSE it was a picture of breaking ties with the Jews who were His brethren. Now let us get to the interpretation of this parable again.

**Notice Matthew 13:18**

As we considered last time, there are four responses to the Word that is sown in this parable.

**1. The One by the Wayside**

**Notice Matthew 13:4, 19**

This person is someone who has been on the wayside. It does not appear as though he or she is someone that is being preached directly to. They are by the wayside and as the Gospel is preached to others this person is in earshot and they hear the Gospel. It has little effect upon this person but it does have an effect.

**Notice Matthew 13:19 again.**

Pay very close attention to where the seed lands and from where it is taken. It lands and is stolen from the HEART. Not the mind, but the HEART. The Gospel is so piercing that it even penetrates the HEART of the wayside hearer.

**Hebrews 4:12**

*<sup>12</sup> 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.*

We can be sure that when we share the Gospel with someone that anyone who is in earshot will feel something in their heart. Let me take this thought even further. Since the Gospel gets in the heart of the wayside hearer we can be sure that the LIGHT will pierce the darkness even if it is just for a moment. For that moment this person is exposed to the LIGHT of the Gospel and there is some sort of conviction felt within the heart. The person does not understand the Gospel but there is enough LIGHT to crack the darkness within their heart.

**2 Corinthians 4:2**

*<sup>2</sup> But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

Paul testifies that when he shared the Gospel it touched every man's conscience that heard it. So, the Light penetrates every heart exposed to the Gospel therefore as we already know the problem is with man and not the Gospel.

**John 3:18-21**

*<sup>18</sup> He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

*<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.*

<sup>20</sup> For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

<sup>21</sup> But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

So this wayside hearer experiences the LIGHT but turns from it. He was convicted for a moment, but he has suppressed the conviction and he may even joke about not falling for what the sower was sowing.

**Notice Matthew 13:4, 19 again.**

The seed fell on the top of the ground and because it was not accepted by the hearer. The person has turned away because they saw no value in the seed and it made them feel uncomfortable for a moment and as it lay there Satan came and he stole it away so that the person was not able to meditate upon it. It became a fleeting burst of LIGHT that pierced the heart. But why was the ground so hard? There can be many reasons why a persons heart grows and indifferent. Jesus mentioned something that causes this.

**John 3:19**

<sup>19</sup> And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Many people get all wrapped up in sinful practices and the repetition of those practices consumes them and they simply do not have time to think of eternity. I have seen people who do not want to face the reality of death and they will do all they can to escape a funeral or a viewing of someone who has passed away. Some get caught up in their businesses or their work and making money is more important than anything to them. This then causes the heart to grow cold and indifferent.

**Matthew 19:16-22**

<sup>16</sup> And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

<sup>17</sup> And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

<sup>18</sup> He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

<sup>19</sup> Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

<sup>20</sup> The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

<sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions.

## 2. The One on Stoney Ground

Notice Matthew 13:5-6, 20-21

We are not going to spend much time here because we covered much of this person last week. He receives the Gospel very quickly with joy, but it does not last. When his faith is tried it proves to be no faith. This person lacks brokenness and repentance which are required for salvation.

2 Corinthians 7:10

<sup>10</sup> For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Someone has said of the Stoney Ground hearer in Matthew 13 that this is not unsaved man's heart at its worst but this is unsaved man's heart at its best. Even at its best it is not good enough. With this man the "plowshare" of conviction has not made ready the heart/soil to receive the seed. This seed landed in a hot bed of emotions and there was absolutely no root. These are the people that ride high on emotions. They do not turn away from self or self-righteousness nor do they hate their sin. This "experience" is not of God because it does not last!

Ecclesiastes 3:14

<sup>14</sup> I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever: nothing can be put to it, nor any thing taken from it: and God doeth it, that men should fear before him.

## 3. The One Surrounded by Thorns

Notice Matthew 13:6, 22

This person we looked at last week also and determined that this person is living a life that is overloaded. They are caught up in the concerns of this life and it is to the point that they allow these thoughts to choke out any concerns for eternity. We can see a picture of this person in Luke.

**Luke 12:16-20**

*<sup>16</sup> And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:*

*<sup>17</sup> And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?*

*<sup>18</sup> And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.*

*<sup>19</sup> And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*

*<sup>20</sup> But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*

With the stoney ground and the thorn filled ground we see clear pictures of what James warned of.

**James 2:17-20**

*<sup>17</sup> Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

*<sup>18</sup> Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.*

*<sup>19</sup> Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.*

*<sup>20</sup> But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*

James warned of DEAD faith and that is what we see in these two hearers in Matthew 13.

**4. The Good Ground**

**Notice Matthew 13:8, 23**

This person's heart is like plowed soil. It has had the plow share of conviction pull through it therefore it is open to the seed and when the seeds lands it gets rooted in and it brings forth much fruit.

**Conclusion:**

This parable introduced to Jesus' disciples something completely new. It was the *GOING OUT* to sow seed. There are many churches today that have a different philosophy in building the church. They believe that if they build it big enough "they" will come, so in many mega churches they stir up entertainment waiting for the people to come.