

Becoming the Good and Fruitful Soil

The Good Soil (Part 2)

Scriptures. Math 13v3, Mark 4v3, Luke 8v13

Introduction

The Gospel likens our hearts to four different types of soil. We are urged to consider the condition of our heart in the light of the above scriptures.

This is the second article concerning the good ground, which describes those who with a honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it and bring forth fruit with patience. The increase being some a hundred fold, some sixty fold and some thirty fold. In this article we will consider a cause for the differing amounts of harvest produced.

Variable Harvest

The first thing to acknowledge is that even in the good soil the harvest can vary considerably. This should be a warning to us that there is a real danger we may fail to produce the full harvest expected by Jesus Christ. He deserves the very best harvest from our lives and wants to get a hundred fold rather than 30 fold or less.

Are We Hungry For Jesus?

One of the main factors, which will determine the amount of harvest produced, is how hungry we are for the Lord Jesus. I suggest we rarely assess how hungry we are for the Lord to our spiritual loss.

How would you rank your spiritual hunger on a score from 1 to 10, if 1 indicates little appetite and 10 indicates extreme hunger? How hungry are we really?

Luke 6 v21 Blessed are ye that hunger now for ye shall be filled. Blessed are ye that weep now for ye shall laugh.

The word weep used here in Greek means “weeping as a sign of pain and grief for something”. Whilst the word hunger means “to crave ardently or to seek with eager desire”. Thayer Greek English Lexicon.

When was the last time we wept and were in anguish about spiritual matters either over the state of our own heart or the state of another person? Can you remember the last time you were all knotted up inside, desperate for the Lord to move? This is a good indicator to show to what extent we are hungry for Jesus.

Are we craving ardently for more of Jesus and seeking him with eager desire?

I suggest that where there is a lack of hunger for the Lord Jesus it falls into two categories:

1. Comfortably Not Hungry

This is where Christians know they are not hungry for Jesus. Either the fire of love has dimmed or more likely the Holy Spirit was never able to properly kindle it. They are satisfied to remain in a “not hungry” state as their self-life can be indulged and there is no expectation that they need to change. They continue with some religious activity to reassure themselves that all is ok.

2. Spiritually Anorexic

There is a psychological illness called Anorexia, which is characterised by a fear of becoming fat and a refusal to eat. The Greek word means “to be without appetite”. Those suffering from this horrible condition think they are becoming fat when in fact they are thin and on the way to starving to death. They are deluded about their physical state.

Many Christians may be in an anorexic state spiritually, believing themselves to be spiritually fat when they are in fact thin and starving. They may be very active in the church and undertaking many religious works but do not have that vital spiritual relationship with Jesus. They may seem to be outwardly spiritual but are without an inward reality.

Thou Good and Faithful Servant.

It's likely we all expect that when we get to heaven that we are guaranteed to receive the salutation from Christ 'thou good and faithful servant'. The truth is that only the hungry for God will have lived in such a manner so as to receive this commendation from the Lord Jesus.

What Makes A Person Hungry For God?

1. It is by the wonderful grace of God and through the working of the Holy Spirit that a person becomes spiritually hungry for God.
2. A humble seeking heart will become increasingly hungry for God. The scripture Matthew 7v7 states 'seek and you shall find.' The truth of this scripture is enormous as indeed what we seek we shall find. Those seeking God with a humble heart will find Jesus satisfies them, as they are increasingly obedient to him. A spiritually hungry soul is always seeking ways to please the Lord.

Knock And It Shall Be Opened.

Somehow we often assume that the act of knocking in Matthew 7v7 describes the actions of those initially seeking Salvation. In our ongoing spiritual life there should always be an element of knocking, as it is a sign spiritual hunger and seeking the Lord Jesus. In Greek the word can mean to 'knock with a heavy blow'. How hard and how frequently are we knocking on the spiritual door wanting more of Jesus?

Only The Hungry Will Be Really Filled

Jesus promised the hungry would be filled. This may explain the condition of many where they feel "unfilled" in their Christian life because they are yet to become spiritually hungry.

Christ promises to fill the spiritually hungry and he is the source of the heavenly increase. It's an increase in his nature and life that he is looking to reap from each one of us. The increase can only happen in those who are hungry for him as a heart that is not "hungry" will not die to self and make way for his Lordship.

Spiritual Challenges

- God make clear to us our present spiritual state and to what extent we are hungry for Jesus.
- May he make us hungry for him so that he gets the 100 fold increase he seeks and deserves from our lives.