

# Becoming the Good and Fruitful Soil

## Introduction

Scriptures: Matthew 13 v 3-23, Mark 4 v 3-20 & Luke 8 v 5-15

### The Parable of the Sower

The Gospel likens our hearts to four different types of soil in the parable of the sower and we are urged to consider the condition of our heart. In this first article we shall consider the type of seed used and ask the question how we see ourselves. In future articles we shall examine the spiritual challenges depicted in the four types of soil.

### The Precious Seed

In the parable, the same precious life giving seed is deposited in all four types of soil and this should greatly encourage us. The grace of the Lord does not reserve the best seed for the most fruitful soil. The soil at the wayside receives the same seed as the good soil, which then produces a hundredfold harvest.

There are several points to consider:

1. This seed provides an amazing hope, as in receiving the good seed through Salvation we have a kernel of the divine nature implanted in our being.
2. This is the same seed that set the church on fire in the New Testament. It transformed men and women's hearts and turned the known world upside down. We should not be deceived into thinking that Christ has somehow over the centuries substituted a lower grade seed. It has today the same potency and ability to mightily transform men and women's lives.
3. Christ is inclusive and no one has been excluded from receiving the good seed. There is often something harboured deep in the human heart, which believes that others have a spiritual advantage over them. The truth is that we have all received the very best seed.
4. There can be no excuses when we get before the Lord because we have all received the same good seed. If the harvest is poor or non-existent it is not the fault of the seed. Its how we treat the seed that will determine if the potential harvest is realised.

5. Its testimony to the amazing grace of God that he allows the precious seed wrought by the death and resurrection of his son to be sown knowing that in some hearts it will have little or no effect.

### **Challenge**

**We need to believe the highest of Christ's salvation and that his seed has amazing potential in us. It is a serious error in our thinking to limit Salvation to that which we have already experienced, as most of us have much further to go in our spiritual walk. We need to honour Christ by believing the truth in the scriptures and look to it being made real in us.**

### **How Do We Really See Ourselves?**

We often presume that the good soil describes our ongoing spiritual condition. Although we would not perhaps openly share this with others, there is often something in the human heart that believes this to be the case. This belief is perhaps supported by the knowledge that at times in the past we have made moves towards God.

In the parable of the talents, one of the servants was given a single talent and was later judged by his Lord to be slothful and unworthy. Would that servant have thought himself to be slothful and wicked? I would suggest that he considered himself to be careful and prudent until faced with the dreadful truth from his Lord.

Over time the servant would have developed numerous reasons for his lack of action. He would be sustained by a false self-assurance about his spiritual state until the truth was revealed. The importance thing is not how we perceive ourselves but how Jesus sees us.

A presumption that we always remain the good soil can wrongly encourage us to relax, take our eyes off Jesus and seriously inhibit future spiritual growth.

### **Challenge**

**It is vital that we continue to carefully examine our hearts and hear what the Lord is saying to us personally about our spiritual state.**

**God by his grace and power keep us in reality about our spiritual state and make us hungry for the "much more" in Christ.**