

Becoming the Good and Fruitful Soil

The Good Soil (Part 1)

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. In this article, we start to look at the good ground, concentrating on the fruit.

The good ground describes those who with a honest heart, having heard the word, keep it and bring forth fruit with patience. The increase being for some a hundred fold, some sixty fold and some thirty fold.

What is God expecting to increase by a hundred fold?

We may immediately conclude that the fruit and increase described in the parable is directly related to evangelism and the addition of souls to the kingdom.

However, the root of the Greek word "fruit" used in this parable means "to bring forth deeds" or "men showing the knowledge of religion by their conduct." (Thayer Greek-English Lexicon) Deeds and conduct means our day to day behaviour which is driven by our inner nature.

The word fruit is very similar to that used in Gal 5v22 to describe the fruits of the spirit. Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Gentleness, Goodness, Faith, Meekness and Temperance.

Naturally, we do not produce these fruits because our nature is to do the opposite. It is only after a spiritual new birth when the seed of Christ's nature is implanted in us that we start to produce the spiritual fruit desired by God. He wants to see the Salvation wrought by his Son produce a Christ like nature in you and I. The great claim of Jesus Christ is that men and women can be transformed in this manner.

The root of the word fruit signifies "the visible expression of power working inwardly and invisibly". In this case Christ's nature planted in those who have been truly saved. (Vines Expository Dictionary)

Christ was not crucified and resurrected to make you and I a little better than other men. He is looking for supernaturally transformed men or women. This means the same love, goodness, meekness, longsuffering and faith that he exhibited being exhibited in our lives. This is the harvest God seeks in those spiritually born again.

New Birth is the start of our nature being changed.

When we receive His Salvation it is a beginning, which is why it is described as the new birth. It's the start of Christ wanting to transform our nature into his. The beginnings are vital but if the nature of Christ is not made real in us then the harvest has failed.

Do we believe the highest about His Salvation?

We have the potential to be slip shod in our thinking concerning this wonderful Salvation. We need to be very careful about what we believe and preach. There is a danger that we may believe in an inferior Salvation and therefore have a lower expectation of its effect in our lives. This Salvation is not just about receiving forgiveness of sins but Christ desires to wonderfully transform our nature.

It may be very convenient for us to accept an inferior Gospel because then there is no real expectation that we should be changed. We do not have to be subject to the rigor of discipleship and let God deal with our self-life.

We may consider it is impossible for Christ to change our nature to be like his. We can dress it up to sound very humble and declare that we are too bad to be changed. Although this sounds humble it is one of the highest forms of spiritual rebellion because it implies that the Salvation of Christ is not sufficient to change our nature and something more is required.

If we believe that Christ's nature and life has been implanted in us how can we not be transformed? Either Christ was telling the truth about his Salvation or he was lying.

A Wonderful Salvation has been obtained for us.

It is astounding that Christ has wrought such an amazing Salvation for mankind. It is personal to each one of us and it gives us such hope that through Salvation we can be transformed. If you have had a revelation of the dreadful state of the natural human heart, it becomes even more incredible that Christ is seeking a harvest of his nature in us. Christ has planted his nature in us and if we will cooperate it cannot fail to have its desired effect.

In the next article we will examine what factors determine the extent of the harvest in us.

Challenge

- Let us believe the highest with regarding to the Salvation of Jesus Christ and its ability to transform our nature.
- Let us seek to cooperate with the seed of Christ's nature in us with all our strength. Looking for his nature to be increased in our life and thereby produce a full harvest of fruit for his glory.