

Becoming the Good and Fruitful Soil

The Wayside

Scriptures - Math 13 v3 to 23, Mark 4v3 to 20 & Luke 8v5 to 15

Introduction

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 hearts. In this second article, we shall consider the spiritual challenges concerning the seed that fell on the wayside and in future articles look at the three remaining types of soil.

Mathew 13v19 - When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. KJV

The wayside depicts a heart condition where the word is not understood and is snatched away by Satan before it can grow in the heart of the hearer, resulting in loss to the Kingdom of God and the hearer.

A Lack of Understanding

Understanding in the Biblical sense is rarely just an intellectual process. It also requires spiritual insight which is affected by our spiritual condition.

I suggest that there are two elements to having successful understanding:

1. the Gospel needs to be preached clearly in a comprehensible manner.
2. we need the Holy Spirit to show us our current spiritual state.

The second element is perhaps less obvious but it is vital to us gaining spiritual understanding. It is closely linked to us being real and honest with God. The wonderful salvation of Christ can only be transacted on the basis of absolute reality and honesty. We may have been in such a place before the Lord when we initially accepted Christ but this has to be our constant spiritual condition.

We can so easily drift into a place of unreality. Can we honestly say before the Lord that all we sing, pray and speak is true in our spiritual life?

Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5 were dishonest about earthly money with devastating effects, how much more important are the consequences if we are dishonest about spiritual matters and our relationship with Christ.

We can easily slip into relying on church activity, roles and religious pretence, rather than being really dependent on a living relationship with Christ.

If we are in a place of spiritual unreality:

1. our spiritual insight becomes numb and we no longer perceive our true need of Christ.
2. we no longer see clearly the great potential in the Salvation of Christ.
3. we accept a lower level of Christian life and in doing so, encourage others to do the same.

The priceless word of God can be snatched away by Satan if we are unwilling to be honest and real with God. Religious pretence has the effect of nailing shut the gates of heaven. In contrast, when we are prepared to be real and honest about our spiritual state all the wonderful powers of redemption are brought to bear on transforming our life.

Challenge

God search our hearts and expose any spiritual unreality or dishonesty, that we might receive the full effect of His tremendous Salvation and He in turn will get the glory He deserves.

Satan does not want us to have a deep relationship with Jesus.

We need to understand that the precious seed of God being snatched away is not necessarily a one off event but it can occur repeatedly in a person's life.

Satan is desperate to steal the seed from our hearts. The thing he fears most is that we will be real about our condition, earnestly seek the Lord and be brought into a deep spiritual relationship with Christ. He doesn't mind at all if we are religious. He and the other fallen spirits thrive in the religious spirit of the Pharisee.

Let us not fool ourselves, relationship is not a one off experience. Relationship by its nature involves ongoing daily transactions, feelings and dealings. Satan does not want us to get into a deep real spiritual relationship with Christ because he knows it will lead to real faith, real life and real joy.

Challenge

We need to be constantly on guard against becoming unreal and dishonest in our Christian life. If we are real before Christ, then all the wonderful powers of redemption will be brought to bear on transforming our life.