

Keep Sowing

Matthew 13:1-23

Introduction:

- A parable (v. 3)
 1. The word means, *t* _____ *alongside*
 - a. It is thrown alongside what? – the m _____ of the kingdom of God (v. 11)
 - 1) One cannot naturally figure out God's mysteries. God has to r _____ them.
 - 2) The kingdom of God has to do with s _____
 - b. A parable is a s _____ that illustrates spiritual truth.
 2. Has a hidden meaning
- This parable
 1. Jesus reveals the meaning of this parable (18-23)
 2. He calls the parable, the parable of the s _____
 - a. So the main point does not have to do with the s _____
 - b. The main point has to do with s _____

Share the gospel with all who will listen (19)

- The responsibility for sharing the gospel
 1. Every believer must i _____ share the gospel (Matt 5:13-16)
 2. Every believer must c _____ with the church body to make disciples of all the nations (Matt 28:18-20).
- The first part of parable
 1. Stated (v. 4) - the sower sowed seeds and some seed fell alongside the road. The b _____ came and ate those seeds.
 2. Explained (v. 19)
 - a. The seed corresponds to the w _____ of the kingdom (the message of how to become part of God's kingdom or to be saved from your sin).
 - b. The birds eating up the seed corresponds with the d _____ snatching the gospel message from the person's heart so that they don't think about it.
- Application
 1. It is not our responsibility to k _____ the heart of the person with whom we are sharing the gospel (only God knows the heart of a person).
 2. It is our responsibility to s _____ the gospel with all who will listen.

Share the gospel with all who will listen (20,21)

●The second part of the parable

1. Stated (5,6) – the sower sowed seeds and some fell on rocky places where there was very little soil.
 - a. The plants grew quickly without a root system.
 - b. The sun scorched the plants and killed them.
2. Explained (20,21)
 - a. This is a person who receives the gospel with joy
 - b. But when persecution arises in connection with the gospel, this person falls away.
 - 1) This word means to stumble over
 - 2) The gospel becomes a stumbling block to them and so they want nothing to do with the Christian faith.

●A side note on persecution - one day there will be a worldwide persecution that will cause a massive amount of people to depart from the Christian faith (2 Thess 2:1-3)

1. The Day of the Lord of verse 2 is defined in verse 1 *as the coming of the our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him.*
2. Two things must happen before that day (v. 3)
 - a. The abomination of desolation - the word means to stand away from and pictures people who were sympathetic with Christianity standing away from it.
 - b. The revealed identity of the man of lawlessness, who is better known as the false prophet or the anti-christ of Revelation 13)
 - 1) He will successfully persecute believers from every language, tribe, tongue and nation (Rev 13:7)
 - 2) This is when the great apostasy will occur (Rev 13:8)

●Application

1. We should not be playing on people's emotions to get them to accept Christ.
2. Our responsibility is not results but to share the gospel

Share the gospel with all who will listen (22)

●The third part of the parable

1. Stated (v. 7) – the sower sows seed and some of it fell among thorns which eventually choked out the crop.

2. Explained (v. 22) - This person hears the gospel but things of this world and the deceitfulness of r_____ consumes them and they don't bear any f_____.

●Application

1. Our country, being the land of p_____, is full of people as described in this part of the parable.
2. No one can serve two m_____, but many are trying to serve both God and m_____ (Matt 6:24).
3. However, if these are willing to listen, do not fail to share Christ with them.

Sharing the gospel with all who will listen will get positive results (23)

●The final part of this parable

1. Stated (v. 8) – the sower sowed seeds and some of them fell on good soil and produced a crop of v_____ degrees (100, 60, 30).
2. Explained (v. 23)
 - a. This person hears the gospel and u_____ it (no one can truly understand without God's help – 1Cor 2:14; Jn 6:44; 2Cor 4:4).
 - b. This person bears f_____ (some bear fruit more than others)

●Application

1. True believers bear f_____
 - a. This is defined as living in o_____ to Jesus (Jn 15:5,8,10)
 - b. The degree of our fruit bearing depends upon our degree of o_____.
2. Some struggle in overcoming their p_____ and fail many times. But they don't give up and keep going. They correspond to the smallest number, 30.
3. Some have overcome their past and are allowing God to mold and shape them, but may get side-tracked from time to time. But they repent and keep going. They correspond to ____.
4. Some are maturing and faithfully serving God in every area of life with only momentary failures. They correspond to ____.
5. As we faithfully share the gospel people will come to Christ!

Keep sowing the gospel, leaving the results to God!