

THE SOWER AND THE SEED

Luke 8:4-15

Introduction: The method of farming was very different in Jesus' day from our method. There were usually just a few long, single rows bounded with rocks, hedges, and paths. Not all the roots had been dug up and where it was possible to plow, usually it was only a few inches for the soil was dry and bed-rock was close to the surface. The seed was cast by hand, not by any type of machine, thus the wind would blow the seed here and there at times. Farming was difficult and the crops were difficult to raise. In the story Jesus told about the farmer sowing his seed, Jesus likens it to the Word of God being spread.

I. THERE WAS THE WAY-SIDE WHERE SEED FELL

1. Jesus likened this area and the seed that fell thereon as those who hear the gospel without understanding, their minds preoccupied, and actually are closed to hearing the gospel.
 - They show little concern, and have no regret for not listening.
 - Satan knows that "believing comes from hearing God's Word" so he intends to take man's mind and attention away from hearing the Word of God.

II. THERE WAS THE STONY GROUND WHERE SEED ALSO FELL

1. Jesus said that some people were like the stony ground in that they would hear the Word of God gladly, even show some interest, be touched emotionally, seem to show a lot of activity about what the Word of God they heard.
 - However, some opposition causes them to drop out, to fade away.
 - They never gave any thought to what it might cost to become a believer in Jesus, it just seemed to be the right thing for that moment.

III. THERE WAS THE THORNY GROUND WHERE SEED FELL

1. Jesus said that some people were like thorny ground and that they would receive the Word of God, maintain a degree of concern, become active in Church work, actually live different lives from the lost.
 - Except, they never completely gave up everything of the world. There always seemed to be something pushing Jesus back and out of first place in their lives.
 - They never really show complete peace, are often tossed about, and still lack total devotion to the Lord Jesus and to their Church.

IV. THERE WAS THE GOOD GROUND WHERE SEED FELL

1. Jesus said that there are people who like the good ground who receive the Word of God and grow with each day better than the day before.
 - They have no strings attached to the world and are often recognized for their activity in their Church.
 - They exhibit peace, grace, gentleness, patience and a desire to do God's will above their own.

- They listen to the Word of God, they keep the Word of God and they act on the Word of God.

CONCLUSION:

1. Now, do not use this parable to "judge" others, judge yourself.
2. Ask yourself, "what kind of soil am I?"
3. What degree of concern do I have for God's Word and God's Will?
4. What do I think of material things compared to the things of God?
5. Am I bearing any Spiritual fruit for the Lord?