

The Good Ground/The Christian Heart

In Matthew chapter thirteen, there are seven Parables in which Jesus calls us back to the natural examples of nature to show us how the Kingdom of God is. What the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

First off, What is a Parable? A parable is literally something laid alongside of another thing to compare it, or explain it.

In the Parable of the Sower, God is speaking through the Messiah and it is imperative that we listen. Today in our modern day society, the display and works of men take hold on us in that we can hardly see beyond the street in which we live, we are so completely occupied with the affairs of men (of the world) and our own selfish gain, that it is no wonder we have so little of God in our lives. We need to be more concerned with what God is concerned with. God is concerned with the heart and bearing good fruit. God wants the heart to be perfected and fruit to be borne, but in order to bear good fruit, you must have good ground. The question is: Is your heart good ground?

There are four types of ground mentioned in this parable. These represent the kinds of hearers which we shall call:

- 1. The wayside ground or hard hearted hearer***
- 2. The stony ground or shallow hearted hearer***
- 3. The ground among thorns or crowded hearted hearer***
- 4. The good ground or Christian heart.***

Keep in mind, how we hear is very important in our everyday Christian lives. Our hearing is judged on the basis of what is said being put into action by the hearer. This is how one proves that he heard correctly what was said.

Mt 13:1 ¶ The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: *This is the hard hearted hearer.*

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. *This is the shallow hearted hearer.*

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: *This is the crowded hearted hearer.*

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. *This is the good hearted hearer or Christian heart.*

Notice that even when the heart good ground, only about one third of these will bear fruit a hundred fold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Here we see that we have four different types of hearts and only one kind bears fruit.

<i>Heart</i>	<i>Produce fruit</i>
<i>Hard</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Shallow</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Crowded</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Good Christian</i>	<i>yes</i>

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. *In Luke 8:18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have. {seemeth...: or, thinketh that he hath}*

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: *Ref. Isa 6:9 -10*

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. *Heb 5:11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. (first Principles) I'll speak more of this later.*

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

c.f. 1Pe 1:10 ¶ Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Here Jesus is about to tell his disciples in detail what every part of the parable means. So they would understand.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one (*Satan Mk 4:15*), and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

This is the hard hearted hearer.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

This is the shallow hearted hearer.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.

This is the crowded hearted hearer.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

This is the Christian heart.

<i>Heart</i>	<i>produce fruit</i>
<i>Hard</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Shallow</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Crowded</i>	<i>no</i>
<i>Good</i>	<i>yes!</i>

The true Christian is one that bears good fruit

Characteristics of Fruit: what makes it fruit?

- 1. *Outward fruit or meat - love joy peace longsuffering temperance meekness gentleness goodness faith. Gal 5:22***
- 2. *Seed - Word of the Kingdom Matt 13:19, Word of God Luke 8:7***
- 3. *Souls that have the fruit of the Spirit and the Word of God are Fruit Gal 5:22; John 15:1-8***

Joh 15:1 ¶ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Fruit cannot produce more fruit without the seed. The seed is the word of God (Gospel included). If you don't have the word of God, you can't produce good fruit.

The result of fruit is

Nourishment

More Fruit

Fruit of the Spirit is pleasing

Seed continuation bears fruit.

Good hearted hearer should produce good hearted hearers who produce good hearted hearers and so on.

Only the hearing heart produces fruit, only the good ground produces good fruit.

What does this mean in plain English? If we are bearing fruit, we are: We are winning souls, we are equipping and preparing soul winners and perfection saints. We do this with the word of God.

Lets look at

II Tim 2:1-2

2Ti 2:1 ¶ Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

Know the Gospel and how to obey it.

When you win a soul to Christ, they should be properly trained in what the gospel is and how to obey it.

In Hebrews 5:12-6:3, the apostle Paul speaks of these as “first principles”

These are the first principles

Hebrews 5:11-6:3

Heb 5:10 ¶ Called of God (*speaking of Jesus*) an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

11 Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.

“Dull of hearing” they have become dull of hearing.

Do you think that a person who is a Christian can become hard hearted or shallow hearted or crowded hearted when they once were good

hearted? Yes

We missed out on what we could've learned because we're too busy blabbing.

The problem is we have two mouths and one ear. We need to throw away that extra mouth and grow another ear. What I mean is, We talk twice as much as we should and we listen half as much as we ought to, and we don't learn nothing.

Fruit must have seed to bear more fruit

The seed is the word of God luke 8:7

The apostles doctrine is the word of God Acts 2:42, II Tim 2:1-2

Back to Hebrews 5:13-6:3

13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.

14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14

How does one become of full age? Simple as this, the more you preach the better you'll get at it, if you preach the truth. The more you do the will of God, the better you'll get at it. But you have to study the Word of God to know it before you can do it.

II Tim 2:15

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The more you exercise, the stronger you'll get. The more you run the faster you'll get, the more you shoot, the better you'll get. Etc.

Back to Heb 6:1-3.

Heb 6:1 ¶ Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

2 Of the doctrine of baptisms we have already been baptized, and of laying on of hands we already have the Holy Spirit, and of resurrection of the dead We already know and have obeyed the Gospel, and of eternal judgment. We don't have to worry about eternal judgment, we are living by faith, aren't we?

3 And this will we do, if God permit. Preach to the Lost.

We should go on to more mature things, because we know the gospel already and are ready to learn meat. We have graduated from milk and are ready for meat, have we not?. But we still need to win others to Christ, this is our job as Christians.

II Tim 3:16,17.

Beginning with verse 14.

2Ti 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

The problem is there are people that still can't remember the gospel. And how to obey it. They still don't know how to win a soul to Christ.

II Tim 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect"

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is to win souls, to include restoring the backslider and perfecting the saints, for the edification of the Church (The Kingdom of God) to the glory of God.

When a soul is won God gets glory.

When a backslider repents God gets glory.

When saints are perfected God gets glory because these are the saints that can win souls to Christ and bring the backslider back to Christ. To God be the glory.

***Win souls- milk
Perfect saints- meat.***

Heb 6:1 perfection.

Would you commit to someone who won't teach others?

It's like a king who has a hundred sons, and all of them are sterile. His kingdom has an end. But the kingdom of God is everlasting. We win souls by preaching the gospel.

If I preach the gospel to a hundred people and they become Christians but they all forget the gospel, then how can the kingdom of God grow and be edified?

***Now there is good fruit and there is evil fruit.
Good fruit is produced by the Word of God and evil fruit is produced by the enemy (the devil).***

Take a look at the parable of the Tares:

Matt 13:24

24 ¶ Another parable he put forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 2215. zizanion darnel or false grain:--tares. Darnel looked so much like wheat that an inexperienced farmer could not tell the difference.

Unlike wheat which was nourishment, darnel had no nourishing value and had a drunken affect on those who ate it. Kinda like how the Word of God is spiritual nourishment and makes you wiser; and the word of the devil makes you stupider, to the point of death.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir,

didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof. *the Kingdom of Heaven is a Kingdom of Faith. Ref. Lu 17:6 And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you.*

33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened. *In the Bible, leaven is almost always used when referring to wickedness.*

Lu 12:1 ¶ ... Beware ye of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

1Co 5:8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1Co 5:7 ¶ Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our passover is sacrificed

for us:

In this earth we are mixed among the wicked, but will be separated come Judgment day.

34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Jesus explains the parable of the tares

36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. *Notice they did not ask him of the other parables probably because they understood these.*

37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

44 ¶ Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. *This parable, understood in the traditional way, often brings many to a feeling of guilt and unworthiness, because which of us can possibly say: We have sold all we have for the Kingdom of Heaven? Jesus paid for it with His blood. And we must realize that the value of the thing paid for is about equal to the price paid. Would you buy a house for ten times what it is actually worth?*

In conclusion:

In the Parable of the Sower, God is speaking through the Messiah and it is imperative that we listen.

We need to be concerned with what God is concerned with. God is concerned with the heart and bearing good fruit. God wants the heart to be perfected and fruit to be borne, but in order to bear good fruit, you must have good ground. The question is: Is your heart good ground?

Have you preached or taught the Gospel to anyone lately?

Have you brought back a backslider from the error of his ways?

Jas 5:20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

Is there anyone here that have not obeyed the Gospel?

What is the Gospel? The Apostle Paul declares it in I Cori 15:1-4

The Gospel must be obeyed. C.f. II Thess 1:7-10.

2Th 1:7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

10 When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day. *Invitation.*

CHARACTERS OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER:

SOWER JESUS

**SEED Word of the Kingdom (Gospel) Word of God
Matt13:19 Luke 8:7**

**GROUND the Heart- intellect emotion memory mind
Matt 13:19, Luke 8:15**

WAYSIDE hard hearted hearer

STONY PLACES shallow hearted hearer

AMONG THORNS crowded hearted hearer

GOOD GROUND Christian heart

Lu 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

FOWLS wicked one Matt 13:19; Satan Mk 4:15; the devil Lu 8:12

**SUN tribulation and persecution Matt 13:21; affliction Mk 4:17
Temptation Lu 8:13.**

**THORNS cares of the world, deceitfulness of riches Matt 13:22
and the lusts of other things Mk 4:19; and pleasures of this
life Lu 8:14.**

**and pleasures of this life Lu 8:14 bring no fruit to perfection
FRUIT both souls John 15:1-8 & Christian Character Gal 5:22.**