

### **Parable of the Sower (Mark 4:14-20, 26-32)**

The sower sows the word. And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble. Now these are the ones sown among thorns; *they are* the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

<sup>26</sup> And He said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

<sup>30</sup> Then He said, "To what shall we liken the kingdom of God? Or with what parable shall we picture it? *It is* like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade."

### **First remarks**

- This is one of the few parables that Jesus fully explained to his disciples.
- One of the few parables that appears in all three synoptic gospels (Matt 13, Luke 8)
- **Mark 4:13 (NIV)** Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"
- The focus is the seed (verse 14), not the ground – Jesus is still talking about the seed in verse 26-32.
- The seed is the Word of the Lord for you – this could be a scripture promise, or it could be a prophetic word.
- The seed is designed to produce, but we need to plant it in good ground and take care of it.
- These attacks are not blessings from God, but are meant to stop a harvest, and to make you give up on the word you are standing on. John Wimber healing example.
- These are some of the biggies. Insignificance is another – touched on that last night.
- Jesus has ALL authority, he gave it to us! The enemy has no authority.

**By the wayside** – ie it fell on or beside the path (stone or hard-packed earth), rather than on prepared ground.

- No preparation made it easy pickins
- If evangelism is approached without enough preparation, this happens – GC
- You hear a prophetic word or scripture promise and “blow it off”.

**Stony ground** – ground is noticeably stony, not just a rock here or there.

- “This is just what I needed to hear. Pray with me!”
- No root – nothing to grab hold of, no support, no substance.
- Evangelism without followup and pastoral care can lead to this. One of the big things that Billy Graham crusades did was followup.
- Affliction – “tribulation, affliction, trouble” (KJV – G2347) – could be sickness, unexpected expenses, car trouble, family matters, things going wrong, etc.
- Persecution – extended torment or harassment by other people (G1375). Righteousness is a good cause (Matt 5). Intimidation is a type of persecution.

**Sown among weeds** – gets a good start and then gets choked out

- How many people have gotten a good start in their faith (or restarted their faith), and then been distracted or choked out – job, romance, worries, house payment, etc
- Cares of this world – worries that distract. How often are we told to “fear not” and “don’t worry”? “What if I make a mistake?”
- Deceitfulness (deception) of money – the “god” that runs most people’s pocketbooks and many people’s morals.
- Lusts of other things – things that you covet, long for.1 John 2:15-17 (lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life) – things that are of the world, and that will pass away.

**Good soil – produces!**

**V26-29**

- Expect a crop when you sow seed into good ground!
- Don’t dig up your seed prematurely
- Don’t settle for just the blade or the small ear

**V30-32**

- A small seed planted in the right place can yield a large harvest

Expect, in spite of adversity.

Stand. The armor of God is not for defense!