

MARK 4:1-20 PART 2

INTRO:

- **Parable**: Para-bello. Alongside & to place or lay. So to place or lay alongside something else, for the purpose of comparison, to illustrate.
- This parable does not give us an specific doctrine of scripture, but rather how to receive the scripture and bear fruit.
- The parable is information on receiving the Christian life. How to grow and bear fruit for the glory of God and the blessing of man.
- **THE WAYSIDE HEART: vs. 3, 15**
- **THE SHALLOW HEART: vs. 5,6,16,17**
- **THE PURPOSE OF THE PARABLE 10-12**
- **VS. 11) Unto you is given**. The verb is in the perfect tense, an act completed in the past and having present results.
- **Mystery; (Vs. 11) the secret councils of God. That which is hidden from the ungodly but revealed to the godly. (Eph. 3:2-6)**
- The mystery is not in the fact that they are difficult to understand or interpret, but that they are impossible to understand until their meanings are revealed by God. (Jn. 3...)
- When the seed grows and thrives in a heart it will always produce the same fruit in each, visible repentance, visible faith in Christ, visible holiness of life and visible humble Christ likeness.

THE THORNY HEART: VS. 7, 18, 19

- This thorny soil is not thoughtless or careless like the first soil, or not shallow like the second, but having some depth and earnestness outwardly, it appears to look fruitful.
- The word "Thorn refers to a thorny bramble and its seed which lays dormant just mixed under the surface and thus contaminates the soil.
- These seeds produce the thorns which the crown of thorns was made of that was forced upon the beautiful tender head of our Lord.
- This heart is not prepared to successfully receive the word. It has left the seeds and roots of the thorns in its soil.
- There has been no real repentance and renunciation of sin and the old life. He lives as he always has, compromising or putting up with the previous sin.
 - 1 Jn. 1:6; If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.
 - 2 Cor. 6:14-16.

- **VS. 19** notices the operative warning about Life being choked, there was allowed a "entering in." "The Trojan Horse."
- **Cares:** (Vs. 19) to be drawn in different directions, to be distracted. Care in the sense of anxiety, a cousin word to worry.
- **World:** refers to the course of life as lived now on the earth by those who do not know God.
- Notice it happens from within. Prov. 4:23; Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.
- **Worldly cares**, the pursuit and desire for riches, a lust for earthly treasure. These things choke the life from the good seedling
- The world's cares, riches, entering into the holy, sacred, sanctuary of the heart choke it.
- These things compete for our time, our lives and as they thrive our spiritual lives die.
- This heart desires to walk both, the broad way and the narrow which is impossible.
 - Mt. 6:24; "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.
- This heart is the compromising heart, the double minded man's heart.
 - **1 Jn. 2:15-17**
 - **2 Tim. 2:4**

THE GOOD HEART: VS. 8, 20

- Notice that in these last 3 cases of sowing a crop began, they all looked good at the start. It was not until the trials and life's testings came that the differences and deficiencies appear.
- What an encouragement it is to the sower that regardless of a multitude of sowing, and what seems to be an absence of fruitfulness at the time, yet the promise comes and there will be a harvest.
 - Ecc. 11:1 Cast your bread on the surface of the waters, for you will find it after many days.
 - Do not lose heart, 1 Cor. 15:58; Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord
- Notice the bounty. This good heart harvest is plentiful. The sower may be tempted to be discouraged and give up, but when he understands, though his word has not yet produced any fruit, that

when the good prepared soil receives the word there will be an abundant and multiplied harvest, 30, 60, 100 fold.

- He may have sowed 100 times with no true fruitful response but the one or two that do respond to the living word, their lives will be as a hundred in the hands of God with joy and rejoicing.
- The success of this forth group is not found in the seed but in the preparation and condition of the soil "good ground."
- Is my heart good soil?
- As in Vs. 9 where we read, "did yield" it is in the imperfect tense, meaning there was not an end, it kept on yielding...
- This soil hears the word, understands the word, the word is kept and guard with all patience.
- The good heart responds to the word, it understands the word, it trusts the word and its promises,
- It keeps and guards the word, it obeys its precepts and direction, it surrenders simply and completely to the word of the Master.
- Luke adds this heart is excellent, noble and good.
- This heart hears the word, it accepts the word obeys it, embraces it, nurtures it, and lives it out and thus bears fruit.
- The Thessalonians are good examples;
 - 1 Thess. 2:13, For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed *it* not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.
- This soil pictures the true believer because it bears fruit, abundant fruit which is a changed and Christ like life.
- In VS. 20 the GK uses the present tense 3 times, good heart hears and continues to hear, accepts and keeps on accepting, and bears, and goes on bearing throughout its life.
- To be fruitful hearers we must make our calling and election sure;
2 Peter. 1:3-11

CONCLUSION:

- The different heart soils may be changed. They need not be permanent.
- The careless trampled down soil, may be loosened and ploughed and bear fruit.
- The stony heart may have the rocks removed and ploughed deep and bear fruit.
- The heart once bearing thorn/bramble seed may be cleaned and then support and nurture the precious plant, bringing it to full harvest.
- Soil preparation is the Spirit of God's work.
 - Gen. 1:2; The earth was without form, and void; and darkness ^[a]was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- God supplies the seed, the miracle of solid true germination and the increase. Salvation belongs to our God.... He is Author and Finisher..
- We do not know what heart soil is in those we speak with, we must sow in faith and water the seed with prayer.
- We are responsible to share, spread the word, but we are not responsible for the outcome. Though we pray.
 - Jn. 15: 16, You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you
- Jn. 15:8; By this is My Father glorified, that you bear much fruit. So you prove to be My disciples.