

Let Me Hear: The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Introduction:

- A. "Once upon a time..." "In a land far, far away..." "I have a story for you..." Stories can captivate us.
- B. Jesus was a master storyteller. Many of His teachings come in the form of stories or what we commonly refer to as parables. Today we are beginning a new sermon series on the parables of Jesus.
- C. This morning, as we look the parable of the Sower, let's consider the condition of our own hearts.

The Path = The Hard Heart (vs. 3-4, 19)

- A. Fields in Jesus' day were not separated by fences. Thus, long narrow foot paths were formed where people repeatedly passed by between each field. Over time, the pathway would become very hard.
- B. This type of heart represents people who never really accept the Word (Acts 7:51-54; 17:32).
- C. People can be here week after week, but never respond to the Gospel because of their hard heart.

The Rocky = The Shallow Heart (vs. 5-6, 20-21)

- A. In parts of Palestine there is a layer of limestone directly beneath the ground.
- B. This type of heart represents people who receive the word and get excited about it, only to fall away when the going gets tough (Jn. 6:66; 12:42-43).
- C. People sometimes find a commitment to Jesus to be too difficult (Lk. 9:23-24; Matt. 10:22).

The Thorny = The Distracted Heart (vs. 7, 22).

- A. Thorns and weeds very much affect the success of whatever has been planted.
- B. This type of heart represents those who receive the Word but allow the things of the world to overtake their life (Matt. 19:16-22; 2 Tim. 4:10).
- C. People can get distracted by their work, family, hobbies, friends, etc. (2 Tim. 2:3-4; Matt. 6:24).

The Good = The Devoted Heart (vs. 8, 23).

- A. When the soil is good, the fruits of one's labor will be clearly seen.
- B. This heart represents those who hear the word, accept it and bear fruit (Acts 2:41-42).
- C. People who have a devoted heart will bear much fruit for God (Jn. 15:5; Rom. 7:4).

Conclusion:

- A. The point of the parable is clear. We need to have ears to hear.
- B. The question we must all consider is, "What is the condition of our hearts?"
- C. Are we willing to hear the Word, accept it and then obey it in our daily lives? Some of you may need to obey this morning by giving your life to Jesus.