

**A Study of the Parables of our Lord; Session # 8 – “The Seed among Thorns”,
presented by Pastor Paul Rendall, on April 10th, 2022,
in the Adult Sunday School Class.**

We now want to turn our attention to the 3rd Type of Ground, (or heart) in this Parable of the Sower and the Seed – The Seed among the Thorns.

A Description is Given of this type of soil in the parallel passages of the Synoptic Gospels.

Verse 7 – “And some fell among thorns and the thorns sprang up and choked them.” In the Gospel of Mark it says – “it yielded no crop”.

Verse 22 – “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.”

Mark 4: 18 says – “Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, and the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

Luke 8: 7 – “And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it.”

Luke 8: 14 – “The now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity.”

1. The Absolute Importance of the Christian Bearing Good Fruit.

Once again, we have a category of people who are hearing the word. They are hearing it regularly, and if you were to ask them, they would say that they are a Christian. But in their heart when they are listening to the word, there are also, at the same time, thorns which are springing up, and it says here, these thorns choke the word, and as a result, that person becomes unfruitful. The thorns sprang up with the word and they are choked it says in Luke 8: 14, with cares, and riches, and pleasures of life, and as a result, they bring no fruit to maturity. So it is the cares, the riches, and the pleasures of this life that choke to word and these same things, then, will not allow the person who has professed to be a Christian to bring forth any fruit to maturity.

Now, at first sight, it may appear that this category of hearts is truly Christian, but we must stop and consider the fact that it says here – They bring no fruit to maturity. It is not like the good ground, the next ground of the heart that we will study, in which some people bring forth at least 30 fold in terms of the fruit that they bear. In this category of heart, no fruit is brought forth, and thus it proves to us, that it is not a true Christian who is being talked about.

What is the problem here? The problem is that the person who is receiving the word is not looking at their own heart and life to see if there are any thorns which are choking the plant which has started, and so it can bear no fruit. They just go on and on thinking well of themselves even though they are only living for themselves, and their own ideas about what the Christian life is, and they

are not living it out of a love for God, for Christ, and for other people around them. It is a very dangerous situation, because they have professed to be a true Christian.

Matthew 7: 15-20 – “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves.” “You will know them by their fruits.” “Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles?” “Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bade fruit.” “A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.” “Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” “Therefore by their fruits you will know them.”

The definition of a false prophet here is one who is a wolf in sheep’s clothing. What does this mean? It means that he professes to be a Christian, but in regard to his own heart and life, how he really and actually is in his heart, he is to be compared to a thorn bush or a bush that has thistles on it. Jesus says here that you cannot expect to gather good fruit from the attitudes that he manifests, or the actions that he takes.

If you are hoping to gather the fruit of the Spirit from that person and instead you find yourself being pricked by sharp thorns and thistles, of their fleshly attitudes and hurtful actions which flow from those attitudes, then what ought you to do? Jesus says that you ought to beware them. That is an obvious conclusion that we can make from these words. You ought not to submit to them or to their teaching. It is good for us to evaluate the teaching of those who profess to be true Christians to see if we can discern whether their life is bearing good fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit.

This means that all people are either good trees or bad trees, depending on what kind of fruit that they bear. Jesus says that you can know people by their fruits, or by the things that they bring forth in their attitudes, their words, and their actions. This is something that must be evaluated, not only in others, but also and more especially, in ourselves first.

2. Thorns Must be Removed by all Professed Christians

Matthew 7: 1 – “Judge not, that you be not judged.” “For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you.” “And why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye, but you do not consider the plank in your own eye?” “Or how can you say to your brother; let me remove the speck from your eye; and look, a plank is in your own eye?” “Hypocrite!” “First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”

So, it is not a good thing if we have a double standard of judgment in our mind; one standard for other people, and another for ourselves. If we are always looking at others to see what we can judge concerning them, but we fail to see things in our own life which are really great sins in our own attitudes and actions, we have failed to understand how our Lord would want us to think, and what our Lord would want us to do. And we have failed to do either. With what judgment you judge, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. We need to keep this in mind as we move forward to understand this parable.

