

Hearers Only

Sunday AM, June 12, 2022

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Straight Paths Bible Church

Luke 8:4-18 And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. 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. No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad. 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.

- I. The seed is the word of God.
 - A. The same word “fell” on four different kinds of hearers, but brought very different results.
 - B. The first was simply in the presence of the word being spoken but paid not attention at all.
 1. These are those who sit in church and work their phone, or talk and pass notes, or simply day dream with their mind somewhere else and do not even hear the word that is spoken.
 2. If they happen to hear a word here and there the devil snatches in out of their mind before it has time to germinate.
 3. The Spirit of God has nothing in them to work with to deal with their soul and they are left without God and without hope in the world, even though they have been in the presence of the preaching of the word of God.
 - C. The stony ground are those who superficially hear and give assent to the truth of the word of God, and are glad to hear it, but never have anything in them – no root, no way of sustaining the life that they are so close to having.
 1. These are those people who just will not sit still in one place and be fed a steady, healthy spiritual diet.
 2. Their heart is hard, their mind is dull, and they do not seek after more knowledge and understanding of the word of God.
 3. They “hear” the word, but they never become “doers” of the word.

4. The seed that was sown in their heart and mind shows some promise, but when they encounter trouble in their life the faith they professed withers and dies and they abandon any hope in God.
 5. These are people who have some tragedy in their life, or lose a child or a loved one, or have some other trouble and abandon God because He did not work with them according to their plan and desires for their life.
- D. Those that fell among thorns are those who hear the word, and go forth, but are choked with the cares, and riches, and pleasures of this world.
1. They never sever their attachment to the things and affections of the world.
 2. They remain in pursuit of the riches and pleasures of this world, and are full of care because of it.
 3. Nothing is changed in their carnal nature and therefore they continue to live after the flesh and they die.
- E. Only the seed that fell on the good ground of a good and honest heart was kept and brought forth fruit.
1. In Matthew it says that this one understood the word and kept it.
 2. The reason he understood the word is because he was listening to the word.
 3. The others heard, but they did not hear; they caught it on the fly and what they liked got their attention for a brief time.

II. We should examine ourselves and be honest about where we fit into this parable.

- A. It is a grief of heart to the Lord that people will hear and turn away, some as soon as they hear it, and then some as time passes.
- B. It is a grief of heart to the Lord that people will hear and then not do what they have heard; they will even rejoice in what they have heard and agree that it is true and right, but they walk away and do contrary to the word they have heard.
- C. It is a grief of heart to every preacher and pastor who loves God and tries to feed God's sheep that so many hear, but do not hear.
 1. To watch them week after week continue in their same faults, errors, selfish ways, blindness, and sin after hearing the instruction from the word of God, is very disheartening and disturbing.
 2. To watch people who will be faithful to church as they continue in the ways of destruction.
 3. To see them remain the same and retain their carnal, selfish ways while they give the nod to the truth when it is spoken is something to wonder at.
- D. If we are hearers only then we are not saved, because there is no fruit, and therefore no evidence of life, or communion with God.
- E. If we hear and go and do the opposite we are hearers only.
- F. If we hear repeatedly and then repeatedly go and do contrary to what we have heard we are not doers of the word, and therefore are not justified before God.

Romans 2:13 (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified.

G. Jesus illustrates the truth He is preaching more by likening it to lighting a candle.

Luke 8:16-17 No man, when he hath lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but setteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light. For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

1. In other words, when you truly hear the word it will light your candle and there will be light and life coming from you.
 2. No one ever gets born again and keeps it a secret; he lets his light shine and everyone knows it.
- H. Those who are hearers only will lose everything in the end and they perish; while those that receive the seed on the good ground of a good and honest heart gain everything.

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.

- I. Take heed therefore how ye hear...

James 1:22-25 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.