

Sunday Service Sermons

03 October 2021

The parable of the Sower

Text: *Luke 8:4-15*

Focus text: "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Understanding the parable of the sower is dependent on our background.

People raised on a farm have an advantage in understanding this parable.

Jesus describes a farmer sowing seed in a small field.

He is casting the seed by hand.

By doing it this way he does not have control over each seed.

Seeds fall in various places with differing kinds of soil.

Jesus speaks of two major emphases in this story.

The first emphasis of Jesus is placed on the Word of God by saying, "The seed is the word of God."

Notice that the seeds are all of the same kind.

No variant in the seeds cast out.

The difference is the kind of soil on which the seeds fall.

To grasp this idea, it is necessary for us to fix in our mind the description of the sower as presented in the introduction.

Also notice that throughout the parable the same person is doing the sowing.

In the Scripture passage, the sower is Jesus.

Today the sower is anyone who proclaims the Word.

The second emphasis is placed on hearing the Word of God.

The parable places responsibility on the one who hears.

In modern times far too much emphasis is placed on the one who proclaims and not enough on the one who hears.

Jesus describes four types of people who respond to the Word.

The first group are those who are illustrated by the seeds falling on a trodden path.

Here the solution is given in a nutshell.

Hear! Believe! Be Saved!

This type of people can hear with the physical ear, but that is the extent of their hearing.

Satan immediately takes the Word away so that they may not believe and be saved.

The second group are those who are illustrated by the seeds falling on shallow soil.

The shallow soil is that which has only a few inches of top soil.

The seeds sprout quickly but have no place to put down strong roots.

Jesus used these words to describe those who receive the Word with emotional excitement and superficial enthusiasm but shortly there after fall away to outside testing and temptations.

The third group are those who are illustrated by the seeds falling among thorns.

This is a description of people who hear the Word and give the appearance that everything is great but in a short period of time are distracted by life's worries, riches, and pleasures and do not mature.

The fourth group are those who are illustrated by the seeds falling on good soil.

The soil told about here is well prepared.

Such people hear the Word, retain it, and by persevering produce a good crop.

Jesus wants the Word to fall on this kind of soil.

Verse 8 says, "He that has ears to hear; let him hear."

We need to take responsibility for what we do with God's Word.

We need to be faithful in seeing that it produces a good crop within us, and we also need to be diligent in sowing the Word so that others may receive it and also have a good crop.

Remember to pray: Lord give me the ears to hear and the eyes to see.

And we might add, and prepare me to be a fruitful responder to your Word in my life.