

January 26th, 2020
Pinecrest Baptist Church
a.m.

Sermon Series: Standing on Kingdom Ground
Sermon #3 Title: The Soils of the Soul
Sermon #3 Text: (Matthew 13:18-23)

We are studying the Kingdom of heaven.

We remember that

#1 – It is to be our Preeminent Interest in Life
– Matthew 6:33 – “Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.”

#2 – It consists of every heart that has actually given themselves over to be ruled by the Lord Jesus, from the inside out.

- Luke 17:21 – “The Kingdom of God is within you.”

Hopefully, and prayerfully, we have sealed those two things to our minds.

- Jesus has begun to give a series of parables that cover the time on earth from His time then, until His time to come; and He began with the parable of the sower, teaching us how the Kingdom of God enters the world, and expands in the world.

In verses 3-9, He proclaimed the parable of the sower. In verses 18-23, Jesus explained the parable of the sower, and it is that explanation that we are looking at today.

- This picture of the sower sowing seeds explains to us why it is, that some people outright reject the gospel,

why some people wholeheartedly accept the gospel, and why there are others in the middle who wind up doing nothing with the gospel.

- The gospel is the Word of the Kingdom... It is the good news that you can be intrinsically redeemed by Jesus, eternally reborn in Jesus, and peacefully ruled by Jesus.

- that's the good news.

Now when Jesus explains this parable to us, He explains why this good news hasn't taken all of the societies of the world by storm. If it is so good, and it is, and if it is so true, and it is, why then is the world in the shape that it's end?

- The Lord explains:

- 1.) There is no flaw in the sower
- 2.) There is no flaw in the seed
- 3.) There is no sameness of soils

4 Kinds of Soils and their response to the gospel message.

“Hear ye the parable of the sower.” – Our Lord Jesus

I. Hard Hearted Rejection – vs 19

- This is the picture of the Wayside Soil

A. The Delivered Word –

- 1.) When one “heareth the Word”
“Hearing the Word” = “receiving the seed”
- It is the “delivered word.” – the “delivered message”

*Note – Jesus explains that these wayside people – “have heard the word.”

- He says in the last part of the verse, that it was “sown in his heart.”

- It is the idea that they are aware they have been spoken to...

- There is an awareness that there has been a message spoken about them... to them...

B. The Disconnected Will – “understandeth it not”

1.) the Word “understandeth” here means to “put two things together.”

*note – Now notice the Word lays it on THEM as to there being no response...

2.) It is an awareness without response!

- The Word spoken to them stays completely disconnected from the Will that is in them, and the Lord lays it on them!

- They do not put together – they actually need to be saved...

- They do not put together – that Jesus is King, Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Savior, and what that means for them...

- They do not put together that the reality Christ is speaking of, is the REALITY they are in.

3.) The Clue to the Hardened Heart...

a.) It has been hardened by foot traffic of the world. – (Wayside)

*Note – It is the repeated ground the world walks on. It is the person who has had the repetition of the world pounded into their hearts and minds, to the point, they will not even consider the Word of Truth God has spoken to them.

- We often speak of people being gospel hardened, there are also people who are Modern Hardened... - They have solidified the mainstream messages of the world as the way things are...

*Note – Then here comes their finale...

C. The Devilish Work – “then cometh the wicked one and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.”

1.) It will only lay on the pavement of the heart so long...before the wicked one REMOVES the Word from your heart and mind into total forgotten-ness.

- He will catch away – “rapture” away
- so as not to be there anymore

*Note the reality is that since Genesis 3, Satan has been feverishly working to remove the Word of God from the world of men. – That was his effort in the garden, that is his effort in the kingdom, to bury, steal, remove, ruin, reject, and defeat what God says to us!

- The wayside soil, is the soil that is unwilling to put together God’s Word into their life.

II. Light Hearted Reaction – vs 20-21

*Note – In short, the light hearted reaction is the heart that receives the Word as a religion, but they do not receive it as Reality.

- They receive the Word, and then leave the Word.
- It consists of those people who like the idea of being a good Christian, but wind up offended at the costs of being a real Christian.

*Note – This is the Stony Soil, or Shallow soil. It is a soil that has no depth.

*note – Now note this first, the stony, or rocky soil is not a picture of a field filled with rocks scattered here and there, although that is very often the case in Israel. The rocky, or stony soil, is speaking of “shallow soil,” where you dig down

just below the surface, and there the rock is. The topsoil looks sufficient, the outside appears good. But as every farmer, and every builder knows – you don't really know anything about the ground, by what's on top of it. It's the part you cannot see on the surface that is the issue.

- Now that's the kind of soil, "rocky" soil is, what then is the picture of the "rocky soul?"

*Note – Notice these three things that identify this kind of soul, and what happens when the gospel is presented to them.

A. There is an Immediate Response – "Anon"

1.) euthys (you-thoos)

a.) straightway, or forthwith, at once.

*Note – It is the idea that there is very little passage of time between their hearing of the Word and responding to it!

*Note – This is the ideal...

- For men and women to respond to the gospel message with acceptance...

*Note – Because a response is immediate, doesn't mean something is wrong. The reception of the gospel is exactly why we preach the gospel. – But never get the idea that because there is an "immediate response" it is a "permanent response."

B. Emotional Reception – "with joy receiveth it"

1.) – It is the word that means "gladness"

2.) The picture given is one of emotional excitement at the "thoughts and ideas" of being in the "Kingdom of God."

*Note – It is the sense of emotional happiness...

- There may be tears of joy

- There may be a burst of celebration

*Note – Again, don't be fooled. There is nothing wrong with becoming emotional at the reception of the gospel.

- The Bible tells us in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, when the Lord empowered the church with His Spirit, that as Peter was preaching there that day in verse 41 that "Then they that **gladly received his word** were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls."

- There must be a glad reception of the Word in order for salvation to occur...

*Nonetheless – according to this parable, hear it from here, not from me, the Emotional part is not proof of conversion.

*Note – Now notice what we have observed thus far with this soil...

What we have seen – "immediate response"

What we have heard – "an emotional reaction"

C. Impatient Rejection – "dureth for a while...he is offended"

1.) Luke 8:13 – adds, "for a while believe"

2.) What is the picture of Offended?

a.) Offended – ("skandalidzo") -

It is where we get our word

"Scandalized" from.

*note – It has 4 basic meanings as it is translated throughout the scripture...

#1 – To Cease Believing

#2 – To Fall into Sin

#3 – To Take Offense

#4 – To Give Offense

*Note – Now how does that play out here...

*Note – In some way this heart begins to believe that what he was told was not right, not true, and abandons it.

- He somehow develops a false idea about what Christianity really is, and then when faced with the truth, either merely abandons it, or decides it's a hoax, or just proves that his profession of faith was all a pretense.

How does this happen?

#1.) A Missing Root – “no root in himself”

- a.) no deep source of nutrients

*Note – The root is always below the surface and goes deeper to find it's source of nutrients. This man:

- (1.) he doesn't think deeper than the moment, or beyond here and now.
- (2.) he doesn't think deeper than his immediate circumstance
- (3.) he never receives anything deeper than the promises of pleasure.

#2.) A Shocking Reality – “tribulation, or persecution ariseth because of the Word...he is offended.”

- Tribulation is the troubles and turmoils that come because of reality of following Jesus.
- Persecution is pressures that make it hard to follow Jesus.

*Note – These people find out that Christ is not calling them to a “religion,” but that He expects this to be the reality of their life, and to keep up appearances they “endure for a while,” but ultimately when the inconvenience is too much,

when faithfulness becomes difficult, and when they cannot live their life AND His, they deem this too unreasonable...

- They view the Word of the Kingdom as Unreasonable, Too Radical, Not what it's advertised to be... It does not live up to THEIR idea of what it means to be a Christian.

*Note -- This is not new! These kinds of people the same kind of people that have always been, and always will be until Christ returns.

Ezekiel 33:32 - And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. Psalm 106:12-14 – Speaking of Israelites who were eager to leave Egypt behind, but decided it was unreasonable to move forward writes, “Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert.

These people love the romanticism of “good religion” and “good Christianity,” – until they realize this is a matter of “reality” not just “feel good spirituality.”

III. Half-Hearted Religion – vs 22

*Note – Now we come to the third kind of soil, or soul.

- The one who receives the word, “among the thorns”.
- Now we note – this ground is at least good enough to grow something – thorns and weeds.

(Over in Israel there is a lot of soil that doesn't even grow thorns and weeds...Here we are into a soil that will at least grow "foliage", but it will not grow fruit.)

- What do we know about thorns in the Bible?

- they are to the curse of sin, what the rainbow is to the promise of God.

- Thorns and Thistles were introduced into the world to be obstacles to avoid, foliage to remove, weeds to battle, troubles to fight all the while with all of the inconveniences of pain, and blood.

- Furthermore, they are powerful...

- They render garden's useless

- They confiscate water and nutrients so that there is no life for nearby plants.

- They resist being removed...

*Note – But we note here Jesus describes the "kind of thorns" that exist in souls of men that keep the Word of God from redeeming them.

A. Distracted Attention – "care of this world"

*Note – Now wait a minute preacher, the things of this world are real and have to be dealt with..., we have to give attention to this world. – The only problem with that, is that it just ain't so.

1.) Care – Merimnah

- to be in distracted –

- To be distracted into solicitude

- it has the idea of a "captured attention."

*Note – Here's the first picture – "this world has captured their attention." – there is a focus on this life, there is a focus

on "this age of time." – which is what the word eon means, translated here as world.

(Is it so bad, and so wrong, to pay attention to things in this life?

- We all have to eat, sleep, work, be safe, be healthy, be responsible... - Are those things wrong?

- Of course not... Until they become thorns that get in the way of your willingness to obey Word of God.

- When you're too busy trying to make a living to obey God, you're making a living is a thorn.

- When you're too driven to eliminate inconveniences and problems of life to obey the Word of God, you are in the thorns.

(What is the focus of your life? – the best circumstances you can have now, or being subject to King Jesus?)

B. Deceived Affection – "deceitfulness of riches"

*Note – Thorn #2 – "the deceitfulness of riches."

*Note – Now pay attention, Jesus didn't say "riches" would choke the word, but "the deception they present."

*Note – Now that could be a sermon series in and of itself, the deception of riches...

1.) 1st Timothy 6:10 – "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

2.) Proverbs 11:28 – "He that trusteth his riches shall fall..."

3.) Ecclesiastes 5:10 – “He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.”

*Note – Over, and over, and over again the Bible is saturated with warnings about how people are deceived by money.

*Note – We don’t have time here to expand much further than this, but what is so deceptive about riches?

- They promise a “good life”
- They offer a “proud life”
- They purport an “admired life”

- Most people “sanitized sinners” will readily condemn Greed. But don’t ever get the idea that “materialism” is the only thing that drives people’s desire for wealth.

- There are as many people desire wealth so that...
 - They don’t have to say, “I can’t afford that” when it comes to common things.
 - They don’t have to endure the commonality of problems that everyday societal citizens have...
 - That they have appear to have arrived successfully, and because they can afford all things, they are someone...

The deception of riches is that many people have subconsciously defined the status of people based on what they “can afford” and “cannot afford.”

- When someone is so moved by the definitions, and aspirations, and philosophies of society, that they will not be conformed by the Bible... the Word has landed in the thorns.

*Note – now here’s the outcome... It is a dead conversion...

C. Dead Conversion – “becometh unfruitful”

1.) There is foliage – but there is no fruit

- a.) The seed has been accepted as true
- b.) But the seed has been rejected as life, and health...

- All the deep nutrients goes away from the Word, and toward the thorns.

- Life is sucked out of them, and they become unfruitful because they are...

- Putting other things before the Lord, they’ll get to Him when they can, but right now the thorns have to be fed and watered.

- We love Jesus, and we’ll obey Him, just as soon as these thorns get tended to...

*Note – One of the easiest ways to see this is in someone’s attitude toward the Lord’s church...

1.) We’ll be there, every time the thorns let us be there...

*Note – The Half-hearted Reception is the one who WANTS the seed of the Word, but lives at the mercy of the thorns, and they are unwilling, to get rid of the thorns.

*Note – They are unwilling to tear their affections away from the making it in this life, and from their desires in this world.

- Jesus called that a “fruitless conversion.”

*Note – In the language of the parable, Jesus is not trying to produce “plants, and blossoms, and blooms,” The gospel is to produce FRUIT... - and it’s not here, in half-hearted religion.

IV. Whole Hearted Reception – vs 23

There may be 3 different kinds of bad reactions to the Word of the Kingdom. But all is not lost – there is good ground that will receive the seed of the Word, and will let it have it's way in their life.

*Note – Notice two things:

A. A Willing Connection – “understandeth”

1.) They put it together, that the Word is the reality, AND it is talking about them! It is in fact the reality that they must actually, and intentionally respond to.

- This is the opposite of the wayside soil... it's to them
- This is the clearer than the stony soil...it is reality, not religion

*Note – The good soil recognizes that 1.) Yes there is a King Jesus over all things, and 2.) I am outside His Kingdom, and 3.) My only hope is to enter His Kingdom, and 4.) I can only do that by admitting I am a sinner, and He is Savior, and surrender the rest of my life to Him! – And I am willing to do that.

B. A Working Conversion – “which also beareth fruit”

1.) It is faith that works.

- a.) What He says conform to, I gladly wish to conform.
- b.) What He says avoid, I gladly wish to avoid...

*Note – It brings forth some, 100 fold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold.... I don't know for sure what is true... but I did read one writer say that the average, was 7.5 fold. That being said, the lowest crop in this soil, is still far better than just the average crop in an earthly soil.

Conclusion:

- Here is how the Kingdom of God expands throughout time...
- the spreading of the Word
- the reception into the good soil.

Now what makes the differences in the soils?

- Dirt is dirt.
- it may be shallow, it may be deep
- it may have rocks, it may be clean
- it may be packed down, it may be soft

The differences in the soils, are the differences of their “conditioning.”

- the wayside has embraced the repetitions of the world.
- the rocky has embraced the emotions of the flesh
- the thorny has embraced the affections of society
- the good ground...
- the repetitions of the world is too hard They've rejected that.
- the emotions of the flesh are fleeting they put no stock in them.
- the affections for society has no place in their appetite

They have been emptied of all the other things.... And when they know there is no or fruit in any of those things.... They are ground that the Seed of the Word of the Kingdom can grow and be fruitful!