

A WARNING...

From the Parable
"The Farmer
Scattering Seed"



The following is an important warning EVERY believer must ponder:

Christ's parable of "*The Farmer Scattering Seed*".

Matthew 13:1-13 (NLT) Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. There he sat and taught as the people stood on the shore. He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

"Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them.

Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock.

The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among the thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants.

Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

His disciples came and asked him,

"Why do you use parables when you talk to people?"

He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secrets of Heaven, but others are not. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given, and they will have an abundance of knowledge. But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them. That is why I use parables, for they look, but don't really see. They hear, but don't really listen or understand."

Jesus then explains the parable.

Matthew 13:18-23 (NLT) "Now listen to the explanation of the parable about the farmer planting seeds: The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's Word.

The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's Word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced.

The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

I know it's the desire of Christ for those who have received Him as Lord and Savior (those who are in the Kingdom of God) to have a fullness of life; a life that is filled with hope and promise for the future.

THE PROBLEM:

Through many years of ministry, I have prayed with many people to receive Christ. But to my disappointment, I have found far too many who have prayed the “sinner’s prayer”, but do not follow through on their prayer to be true followers of Jesus Christ. Because of their insincere prayer, lack of direction, self-centeredness or lack of motivation, they do not produce any Christ-like fruit in their lives.

LET’S NOT FOOL OURSELVES!

We are told that the Word of God is like a fruit producing seed that falls on 4 different kinds of soils. Those soils are recognized by what the seed (the Word of God) produces.

1. Some soil doesn’t produce anything because it’s dry, hard and packed down, and the seed can’t take root.
2. Some soil produces a little plant, but because there wasn’t much good soil, the roots couldn’t grow deep, and in a short time that baby plant faded away and died. It never did produce any fruit.
3. Some soil looks like it is good for growing because there is some evidence of future fruit on the plant, but because of the cares of life, and thinking that money will bring true happiness, the plant never produces the fruit that it’s meant to produce.
4. Some soil is recognized as good soil because the seed that was planted produces the fruit of what was sown.

This tells us that a soil will be known by the fruit it produces, or doesn’t produce.

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