

Matthew 13:1-23
The Sower, The Seed and The Soils
July 7, 2019 – Rev. Rick Lyon

Intro

The word "parable" comes from two Greek words:

- **Para=along side of (parallel lines)**
- **Bole=to throw or cast**

So, a parable is a story you cast alongside a truth, to make the truth clearer.

These parables hold the answer to questions like:

- **Why is there evil in the world?**
 - **What happens to us when we die?**
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Read v.1-9

The parable of the sower, the seed and the soils is recorded in all three synoptic gospels.

Luke 8 - "The seed is the Word of God... The good soil stands for those with a good heart."

The seed is the Word of God

- **One seed has tremendous power!**
 - ***Did you know one cantaloupe seed can produce 8 melons per season?***
 - **The Word of God has that same kind of power.**
 - **Just one verse has the power to change the course of a person's life...**
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The seed is the Word of God.

The soil is your heart - "The good soil stands for those with a good heart."

What kind of heart you have?

1. The Hard Heart

Read v.3-4

The wayside was the path leading to and through the fields.

Read v.18-19

Every time you hear God's Word a spiritual battle takes place.

- **God wants His Word to enter your life and make a difference.**
- **God wants His Word to change the way you think and act.**
- **And Satan wants to snatch it away.**

This happens every time you hear or read God's Word.

Read about forgiveness, God says,

"I don't want your life to be swallowed up by bitterness..."

Satan whispers in your ear: ***"Forgive them? After what they did!"***

Reading about giving, God says,

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"Give and it will be given to you--good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over it will be returned to you."

And Satan says: ***"That's crazy--you can't afford to give."***

Witnessing, God says, ***"The gospel is the power of God to salvation..."***

Satan says: ***"You don't know how to witness--leave that to somebody else."***

Message is on spiritual gifts, God says,

"I've given you an amazing spiritual gift. Use it to serve Me and help others."

And Satan says:

***"How long is this guy going to talk?
Do you see what that person is wearing?
What time does the game start?
What are we going to have for lunch?"***

A. Every time you hear or read God's Word a spiritual battle takes place!

B. If you receive God's Word and act on it your life will be changed.

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What happens if you don't receive God's Word?

Hebrews 3:15-17 - Today, if you hear His voice, *don't harden your hearts* as Israel did in the rebellion. Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? And with whom was God angry for forty years?

You remember the story.

- **The heard God's Word**
 - **God said, "I'm going to give you the Land."**
 - **And what did they do?**
 - **They hardened their hearts**
 - **As a result--they wandered in the desert for 40 years and died there.**
 - **THE SAME THING CAN HAPPEN TO US...**
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2. The Shallow Heart

Read v.5

The problem - No depth!

Read v.6

“He who receives the seed on stony places, is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has *no root* in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. “

Remember Job and his wife.

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When all the bad things happened to Job and his wife, what did his wife say?

- ***Curse God and die!***
- ***I'm through with you God! I thought you loved me! Is this the way you treat your children?***

What did Job say?

- ***Shall we accept good from the Lord and not adversity?***
- ***The Lord gives and the Lord takes away.***
- ***Blessed be the name of the Lord***

*Difference between the two of them? **Spiritual depth!***

The sun, in the parable, represents the trials of life.

James 1:2-4 - Consider it pure joy, my brothers, when you face trials of many kinds because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

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So, how do you develop a deep root system?

5 Ways To Develop A Deep Root System

- 1. Worship** - it helps you to develop spiritually by coming here every Sunday and worshipping.
- 2. Prayer** - as you spend time each day talking to God, you'll grow closer to Him
- 3. Scripture** - as you read and apply God's Word, you'll grow deep roots.
- 4. Fellowship** - gather together with other believers so that they can encourage you and you can encourage them
- 5. Service** - physically we grow stronger when we exercise; spiritually we grow stronger when we serve.

3. The Crowded Heart

Read v.7

- **Weeds compete for sunlight, water, space and nutrients.**

v.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.

Weed #1 - The cares of this world (Distraction)

Satan wants to distract you--get your mind on anything but God.

Weed #2 - The deceitfulness of riches.

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4. The Fruitful Heart

Read v.8

v.23 - He who *received* seed on good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed *bears fruit and produces*: some a hundredfold, some 60, some 30.

Only one profitable way to hear God's Word:

- receive it, retain it and respond to it.
- **First, receive God's Word--receive it into your life**
- **Next, retain God's Word. *In a few minutes you're going to walk out that door. Will you retain anything of this sermon?***
- **Finally, respond to God's Word...**

How can you develop a good heart?

Suggest Three Steps To Develop A Good Heart

Step #1 - Ask God to soften the soil of your heart.

Ezekiel 36:26 - "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."

Step #2 - Grow deep roots.

Remember:

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Worship – Prayer - Bible Study – Fellowship - Serving

Step #3 - Do some weeding.

For others, you'll have to readjust your priorities and put Christ first in your life.

Conclusion - Erik Weihenmeyer is blind. He lost his sight when he was 13, but that never stopped him. Several years ago, he reached the peak of Mount Everest. Mount Everest isn't an easy climb. 90% of those who attempt Everest never make it to the top. In the past 19 years, 143 people have died trying to climb Mt. Everest. But Erik succeeded. And the reason he succeeded was because he listened well.

While he was climbing, he listened to the little bell tied to the back of the climber in front of him so he'd know which way to go. He also listened to his teammates. They'd shout to him, "Death fall two feet to the right!"--so he'd know which way not to go!

Spiritually, you can make it to the top when others fail to do so. It all depends on how you hear God's Word.