

9/08/09 (pm)

Evangelism Reality-Check

Luke 8:1-15

Theme: When the message of salvation is preached there will be different responses from those who hear it.

The Parable of the Sower:

- shows us the variety of responses when God's Word is preached and heard;
- points us towards specific prayer for outreach.

The Parable (8:1-8)

Jesus was travelling around, proclaiming the good news of the Kingdom of God.

He told the parable of a farmer sowing seed.

The seed fell on different soil:-

- 1. Path.** Compacted perimeter.
Birds ate the seed.
- 2. Rocky.** Limestone bedrock.
Growth was scorched.
- 3. Thorny.** Growth was choked.
- 4. Fertile.** The seed grew and
produced grain.

The Parable Explained (8:9-15)

Seed = Word of God.

Various soils = hearts of hearers.

Where the seed fell had
significance for its growth:-

1. The path and the birds

The Devil snatches the Word away from the hearts of some hearers.

Spiritual warfare is real! The Devil is real. *Cf.* Eph. 6:10-12.

The Devil will be active in our outreach!

2. The rock and the sun

Some receive the Gospel joyfully,
but then fall away when *tested*.

*Will any child's profession be
jettisoned when he or she is
mocked at school?*

3. The soil and the thorns

Some respond positively to the Word but it is choked out of their lives by the riches and pleasures of life.

Will the pull of the world (club scene, drive for success at all costs in sport / academic achievement, creeping materialism) strangle the message in the lives of those who hear?

4. Good soil

Some hear the message of salvation, genuinely embrace it, come to faith and go on to produce spiritual fruit.

Are you of the opinion that:

- a Holiday Bible Club is an entertainment vehicle? It is not!
- children can't be saved? They can! *Cf.* Deut. 31:12-13; Ps. 78:5-7; Matt. 18:6.

Pointing towards specific prayer

1. Pray against the work of Satan during our outreach.
2. Pray that the Lord will prepare hearts to genuinely receive the message of salvation.

3. Pray that those who trust Christ will be victorious over tests that come and will not be drawn away by pleasures of the world.

Conclusion

This parable is an evangelism
reality-check.

As the Word is preached obstacles
get in the way!

*Christian, as the Word is scattered
this week & beyond, pray that it will
fall on much good soil & produce a
harvest that will bring glory to God
& benefit His Church on earth.*