

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Luke 8: 5-18

CONTEXT OF THE PARABLE

A large crowd was gathering and people were coming from town to town to hear Jesus.

WHAT IS CLEAR? Jesus interprets this parable for us!

- SEED = WORD OF GOD
- THOSE ALONG THE PATH = the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the work from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.
- THOSE ALONG THE ROCK = are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.
- THE SEED THAT FELL ON THE THORNS = those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.
- THE SEED ON GOOD SOIL = those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.
TRUE BELIEVERS WITH A NEW HEART! The other three soils are not true believers.

THE POINT OF THE PARABLE

Vs 18 therefore, take care how you listen [hear!]" That's the point of the text. Take care how you hear. Teaching is one thing - and it is crucial. But hearing is another thing - and it is just as crucial. There is nothing in this text about the effectiveness of Teaching. It is all about the effectiveness of hearing. The point is not, "Take care how you Teach." But: "Take care how

you hear." Your salvation, fruitfulness, the spread of the gospel, and ultimately the glory of God (Matt 5:16) hangs on how you hear!

PERSERVERANCE OF THE SAINTS

All who were chosen by God, redeemed by Christ, and given faith by the Spirit are eternally saved. They are kept in faith by the power of Almighty God and thus persevere to the end.

John 3:16, John 6:35-40, John 6:44, Philippians 1:6, Philippians 2:12-13, Jude 24-25, Ephesians 1:13-14, Romans 8:28-30, Romans 8:35-39

APPLICATION (obviously not a complete list ... just some examples)

1. Pray that God would give you a good and honest heart. Repent and believe!
2. Purify your mind James 1:21.
3. Get a good nights rest on Saturday night
4. Come in a spirit of meek teachability James 1:21
5. When the worship service begins, think earnestly about what is sung and prayed and preached 1 Cor 14:20.
6. Desire the truth of God's Word more than you desire riches or food Ps 19:10