

Review of 'First' 5 Lessons from Bible Study

November 21st, (Lesson One)

Scripture Texts: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, Luke 8:4-15

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower (My Testimony)

In this introductory lesson I intend to do several things.

In the fall of 1983 I was reading this very story and the LORD spoke to me and stated very simply "preach this". In my young naïve state of walking after Jesus my presumption was to conclude the LORD meant for me to use this story to preach from in Feb 1984. At the time and for years that's what I concluded and at least I had some four months to be ready for that message! After preaching from this story in Feb 1984 for some 10 years, (I became a pastor in June 1987) I rarely referred to this text. I had no real depth of understanding as to how significant the story is to understanding and applying truth to every area of our walk with our Heavenly Father. In a Bible study I was reading the parable and the LORD OPENED THE EYES OF MY UNDERSTANDING TO ONE OF THE MAJOR DEEPER TRUTHS OF THE STORY! I thought to myself, "How have I not seen this before" Before describing that truth, I realized immediately, this is why the LORD told me to "preach this" years ago. He didn't mean preach this in one sermon come Feb 1984. The LORD meant, "Son, you are to preach this the rest of your life! You are to apply it to every single situation when the Word of the Living GOD is shared through you or anyone else! You are to see that this parable opens all other parables or not!" Wow! Had I been blind about this story? So, learn this as the HOLY SPIRIT leads you. As you understand this parable other parables will come to deeper life and meaning. Mark 4:13 is the key verse here. "Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?" Jesus is lifting the veil off the mind of our understanding about how the Gospel truth works within our hearts and minds when it is proclaimed in any venue. So again, the first truth is.....Understanding this parable will open up every other parable!

Now, besides this the LORD enabled me to see that EVERYTIME, EVERYTIME!!!, EVERYTIME!!! the gospel, the Word, the Truth, the Holy Spirit's voice speaks up, a testimony is shared, in any place at any time that JESUS CHRIST is exalted and shared

the process of the sower parable is repeated!!! When the gospel truth is cast among listeners anywhere, anytime for any reason the truth is shared, redeemed or not, redeemed and lost, all put together there is a divine unseen process that takes place! The Word is shared and it is received or not based upon the condition of the hearts and character of every human being listening. This means this process has probably only happened a trillion, trillion times by now and whether you are getting the point or not, it is happening even now as you hear or read these notes! Secondly, the process of the sower parable is repeated every time any part of the gospel truth is shared anywhere by anyone to anyone! Few of us ever think to thank our Heavenly Father for including us into the process of the sower parable. Little have we realized the LORD was prophesizing the power of HIS gospel truth once HIS work was accomplished. The adversary cannot stop this process from happening. THERE IS SO MUCH TRUTH IN THIS PARABLE!

November 28th, (Lesson Two)

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower

(Each Story is a Different same Story)

Each Version of this story is not the exact same. Thus most critics of the Scripture often use this to lodge criticism toward the authenticity and validity of the Scriptures authority and inspiration. They have missed the point of the LORD's creative force and how HE works in every individual believer. At times our adversary will accuse our intellect (b/c our mind is not totally renewed or redeemed by the Spirit of Wisdom from GOD) of such supposed discrepancies in the scripture. To refute such confusion and attack on your mind please consider the following.....

- 1) Three writers are all reporting what they each one remember #2) Three writers are all reporting what they remember and thus they wrote that down in their account. #3) The three writers are three different persons whom the HOLY SPIRIT used the same message, yet the same message would mean something different to each one of them. God's Spirit met each writer where they were at and what they each needed to hear from the same story. #4) The three writers are writing to a different group of listeners. Thus this influences what they say to those listeners in what the recipients needed to hear or wanted to know about.

#5) The influence of the power/use of a parable influences what is written, seen, remembered, heard and understood. Parable – a truth about GOD’s Kingdom shared/described in a manner the content is revealed to those ready to hear, undisclosed to those not ready to hear, where the truth is protected from those critical of that truth or all truth and the hearer is protected from immediate judgment in what they cannot hear yet. Parables are to the value of the teachable & unteachable. The teachable can go deeper and the unteachable are protected from immediate judgment.

#6) Few stop to consider JESUS was like any preacher/teacher/public speaker. He repeated stories in different places/times. #7) Jesus knew who He was talking to in every single place he spoke. Thus he added or deleted to the story as necessary to make His point to the listeners. #8) #7 is also influenced by what the listeners asked JESUS. This could influence how JESUS told the story. #9) It can refer to GOD’s grace that JESUS repeats the story to the same persons in a continued effort that the listener will eventually hear, repent & grow in grace. #10) These three stories are probably not the same story from the same place. One, they could be and each writer brought out different parts of the story as they remembered it. Two, they could be the story remembered from various times and places and merged together. Three, the three accounts could be the same story, two stories or three stories as JESUS preached it once, twice, thrice or more.

December 5th, (Lesson Three)

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower

(Overviewing the Story in each version)

Matthew 13:1-23	Mark 4:1-20	Luke 8:4-15	KEY ISSUE
Matt 13:1-2	Mark 4:1-2	Luke 8:1-4	the Setting
Matt 13:3-8	Mark 4:3-8	Luke 8:5-8	the Story
Matt 13:9	Mark 4:9	Luke 8:8	the Challenge
Matt 13:10	Mark 4:10	Luke 8:9	the Question
Matt 13:11-13	Mark 4:11-12	Luke 8:10	the Answer

xxxxxxx	Mark 4:13	xxxxxxx	the Pivotal Point
Matt 13:14-15	xxxxxxx	Luke 8:10	the Prophecy & the Word
Matt 13:16	xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx	the Promise
Matt 13:17	xxxxxxx	Luke 8:10	the Pain
Matt 13:18-23	Mark 14:14-20	Luke 8:11-15	the Meaning
Matt 13:23	xxxxxxx	Luke 8:15	the Purpose

Abbreviations..... M = Matthew, Mk = Mark, L = Luke

The Setting-The very setting story line denotes the prophetic picture of the condition and state of the North American Church today. JESUS sat down and the audience stood instead of what we commonly find today in our culture whenever one speaks

Five Facts to Figure in Scripture Interpretation and Application (please review as you need to in getting the story straight)

First, JESUS is seated! What do we know about Christ today regarding His position in life? He is literally & symbolically seated! Eph 1:20, Ehp 2:6, Col 3:1. His work is finished! He is resting! JESUS is seated on the water. He rested even where rest was not always the norm like water or where the atmosphere and others there were not yet resting in JESUS' FATHER's grace! The audience is standing! What does this remind us of as disciples? We are to be about standing in CHRIST! While JESUS is seated in HIS finished work the Church is to STAND in HIS finished work! Consider the multiple Scriptures that help teach this truth. 1st Peter 5:9, Acts 7:55, John 20:14, Luke 4:9, Mark 3:3, Romans 5:2, 1st Cor 15:1, Ehp 6:11, Ehp 6:13, Col 4:12.

So beloved, are we Standing or not and resting or not in the completed work of CHRIST that enables HIM to sit down with HIS Father in Heavenly places? This is a major challenge to our discipleship. We either really believe and know the LORD has it or we don't and the difference is telling for us all.

December 12th, (Lesson Four)

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower

(Part two of last week's lesson)

So one reason Jesus kept repeating Himself everywhere was b/c His truth works in each area over whatever may be wrong. Who knows everything about the Kingdom but I know its principles will work when they are applied to our life. The following is a famous quote from a well-known Christian apologist, "The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult; and left untried." The way I would say this is, "The problem is not that Christianity has been tried and found lacking. The problem is most Christians have been found lacking the willingness to have tried the LORD's Kingdom ideals.

Note in this review, I apologize that apparently I repeated some material from the 3rd to 4th lesson without having realized it until preparing for this review.

His parable of how the Kingdom works!

December 19th, (Lesson Five)

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower

(Part three of the last 2 week's lesson & intro to the Story)

(Start here 12/19) Last week we saw numerous truths that describe what does it mean to Stand in Christ? Jesus Stood b/4 Mary in His resurrection grace, glory and position and she DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE LORD! How often I have done likewise and the LORD is now opening my eyes to this truth and my dullness of perception of HIS ways!) Luke 4:9 (This is profound! Satan knew the total authority of Christ. He knew what Christ deserved and the position of authority JESUS lived in. Thus he knew JESUS was the supreme head of GOD's purposes and that Satan had to honor that. Thus he put JESUS where He should be and THEN ATTEMPTED TO PERVERT THAT POSITION INTO LESS, OTHER & MISDIRECTED WAYS THAN THE PURPOSE GOD GAVE CHRIST HIS POWER, PLACE AND SUPREMACY.

What Satan did in his own fall he wanted JESUS to do but JESUS would not!!! It was not yet the ultimate time for JESUS to STAND in recognition of HIS supremacy over the earth. JESUS was not going to allow the devil to put JESUS where He ultimately deserved to be. JESUS was going to let the FATHER do that in the FATHER's timing, not Satan's! This is a lesson few learn. You are only allowed to Stand in greater authority as you first Stand in obedience in smaller lessons and in the FATHER's timing)

From reading the Story, there are slight differences between M, Mk & L. Let's read it in a combined version of the 3 sources. I'll explain the code. "Listen! (Mk) A farmer went out to sow his seed. (3) As he was scattering the seed some fell along the path, (3) it was trampled on (L) and the birds came and ate it up. (M,Mk) Luke states, "and the birds of the air ate it up". (Then) Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, b/c the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered b/c they had no root. (M,Mk) Luke states, "Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered b/c they had no moisture". (Then) Other seed fell among thorns which grew up (L adds "with it") and choked the plants.(3) Mk adds, "so that they did not bear grain". (Then) Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop. (M) Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, (Mk) Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, (L) A hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.(M) Multiplying thirty, sixty or even a hundred times(Mk) a hundred times more than was sown. (L) Each of these little differences reveals more truth to learn from & Stand on.

The Challenge: M13:9 "He who has ears, let him hear" Mk 4:9 "Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." L8:8 "When he had said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Jesus is calling the same Word out to us now as we listen to His parable of how the Kingdom works!