

# Open Line Bible Study

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2017 (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.

First, tell you about my first opportunity to preach in Feb 1984 in the local Church where I was the youth director. 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 I probably did not use this same text again in preaching or teaching until well into the mid 1990’s long after I took my first appointment in the SC Conference of the UMC. So, 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. At some time into the mid 90’s I was teaching a Bible Study in the Columbia SC area and at one particular meeting a gentleman brought this parable up for some discussion about not letting the adversary steal the truth from you or something along that venue of thought and truth. While that man shared, 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? Of course, this is the truth with all application of scripture. We start with very limited insight and grow into maturity from our initial walk with JESUS! 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! Eventually we must learn to pray through this process of the Spirit’s work and truth within the heart of ourselves and others. We will deal with this truth later.

Now, besides what has just been said about this story what was the further truth the LORD revealed to me in that Bible Study in Columbia SC somewhere around 1995 or 1996? 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. (Now there is more to this than I will go into right now) The main point I wish to heavily emphasize here is what has been said. This parable reveals a truth that happens every single time the gospel truth is shared. 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! Much more will be said about this later. So secondly, in brief, 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!

When we read the Scripture pray the following.....

Lord, what does this mean for me right now? Lord, how can we pray this scripture truth into our life?

So, STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, and then LEARN.