

Open Line Bible Study

November 28th, 2017 (Lesson Two)

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

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower (Each Story is a Different / Same Story from JESUS)

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. It is HIGHLY UNLIKELY, the three writers wrote this together. Nor did they immediately compare their writings to one another. They were not concerned to match their story lines to satisfy those who would live centuries later who would think out of the industrial revolution or the western mindset of skepticism toward the validity of faith in GOD.

#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.

My own personal testimony bears witness to this last statement of truth as a praise of our LORD. How often have I read HIS glorious truth and had no idea as to what I was reading BUT JESUS DID NOT HOLD ME ACCOUNTABLE IMMEDIATELY FOR WHAT I COULD NOT SEE, UNDERSTAND OR APPLY. JESUS is so merciful, patient and kind to those the HOLY SPIRIT is teaching! Remember to keep praying that the HOLY SPIRIT will open your eyes to see more deeply HIS truth.

#6) Few stop to consider JESUS was like any preacher/teacher/public speaker. He repeated stories in different places/times. Thus HE almost never would have said the exact same thing in a story every time JESUS spoke! Preachers can use the same story & not exactly repeat themselves. So, in each one of these stories each writer could have been referring to a different town or time when this story was told again and again by JESUS! To summarize, we should never conclude JESUS only told a story/parable/lesson only once. He spoke to 1000's of people in different places. Thus he repeated stories in various places. Thus the gospel writer's wrote the story from various places it was told.

#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. Different towns, listeners, situations influenced what was said in each setting this story was retold.

#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. We know from the gospels JESUS had to repeat himself incessantly to the disciples. No one who has read the gospels could refute that fact. So, it can be presumed JESUS had to repeat Himself to His listeners & those other unnamed followers who didn't understand the truth the first time they heard JESUS teach them.

From a personal witness how many times has the LORD had to tell me the same truth again and again because I was not ready to hear Him at the deep level necessary to plant and apply that truth to my life? Still, the HOLY SPIRIT is so willing to teach me again and again the truths I needed to hear until I finally begin to accept it into my life. Beloved rejoice, the LORD doesn't say it just once and then leaves us to our own destruction when we cannot or do not get it right the first to 100th time HE speaks truth to us!

#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.

The point in all these 10 facts is this. Do not let the story line being different in each gospel throw you off course. Our GOD is a GOD of creativity and wonder and patience beyond ours. If you cannot get the story from Matthew, get it from Mark and/or Luke, etc. You may get it from Matthew and not the other two writers. We are being given opportunity after opportunity to see the truth as it is represented by various Disciples. Thank GOD for that!