

Open Line Bible Study

December 5th, 2017 (Lesson Three)

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

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower (Overviewing the Story in each version)

<u>Matthew 13:1-23</u>	<u>Mark 4:1-20</u>	<u>Luke 8:4-15</u>	<u>KEY ISSUE</u>
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
xxxxxxxx	Mark 4:13	xxxxxxxx	the Pivotal Point
Matt 13:14-15	xxxxxxxx	Luke 8:10	the Prophecy & the Word
Matt 13:16	xxxxxxxx	xxxxxxxx	the Promise
Matt 13:17	xxxxxxxx	Luke 8:10	the Pain
Matt 13:18-23	Mark 14:14-20	Luke 8:11-15	the Meaning
Matt 13:23	xxxxxxxx	Luke 8:15	the Purpose

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

The Setting- I believe it's possible that M & Mk describe the same possible sermon but L another time & place. Here is a very interesting fact. JESUS got into a boat to speak in M & Mk. He sat down and the audience stood instead of what we commonly find today in our culture whenever one speaks. Here the speaker stands up and the audience sits down. Does this mean anything to us in our context today? In JESUS' culture the expert often taught from a seated position while the students/audience stood where in our culture today it is the opposite. It was then a sign of respect to stand to hear one speak. So the setting establishes the high probability that many of JESUS' listeners were very eager to hear him speak. Yet he spoke in parables even when he was being honored by many of his listeners. This leaves me wondering how JESUS would respond to the North American Church that lacks honor for the gospel teacher and lacks understanding of the gospel that requires honor to the leadership of the body of Christ.

Before we go further the following diagram is given to help explain how we can further see into the scriptures when we read them to make application of the story to our discipleship journey. This is very significant to ask ourselves in order to create greater probability that we obtain deeper insight into the scriptural truth. Without this kept in focus, we tend to over generalize the obvious lesson and or stay too focused on the history of the story we are reading. The HOLY SPIRIT will bring balance to us.

Five Facts to Figure in Scripture Interpretation and Application

- 1) Consider the exact literal interpretation of the story in its historical sense. What did this mean to those it was written to in their situation and history? How were they to apply the lesson to themselves in their life time?
- 2) Allegorical Interpretation of Story. This takes the truth of the story and applies it to other life lessons for now or other eras of church and world history.
- 3) Personal life application of the story. Is GOD saying something directly to me in this story? Is the HOLY SPIRIT taking the story out of context to speak to me individually what I am to be about? This certainly can happen!
- 4) Prophetic Application of the story. Is the HOLY SPIRIT making clear what is yet to come to myself, others, the church, the world, Heaven, Hell or anything else through this Scripture?
- 5) Who is the primary group being addressed in this story line in Scripture? The following groups are often the primary group being addressed. Israel, the local to worldwide Church on earth, myself a human being, the world exclusively, the world that is unredeemed, the Spirit Realm (Heaven, Angels, Hell, demons), OUR GLORIOUS GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, JESUS CHRIST OUR SAVIOR, HOLY SPIRIT OUR TEACHER, GUIDE AND SUSTAINER!

What is about to be discussed from the Setting of the story heavily relies on the 2nd and 3rd Fact to ask when the story is examined. Of course virtually all scripture parallels some Kingdom truth and does this one ever do so! First, JESUS is seated! What do we know about Christ today regarding His position in life? He is literally & symbolically seated! Eph 1:20, Eph 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, Eph 6:11, Eph 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.