

Open Line Bible Study Lesson Nineteen May 29, 2018

Scripture Texts: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-10, Luke 8:4-15

Tonight's subject "The Purpose"

As we continue our study in considering various types about the 30, 60, 100 or 100, 60, 30 fold return here are several more to consider. If you need to, please look at the second page of last week's lesson to learn what Biblical typology is. Consider the following text from M 4:26-29. There we read, "He also said, "This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. 27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." OK. This parable complements the sower & seed parable. Whereas the sower parable emphasizes the condition of each heart the parable just read emphasized the power of the seed. This is a fact we must remember. It takes both the right seed and the right condition heart in order to realize a return. The great news for us is the seed is the Father's responsibility and thus you can be assured that His seed is always truth and is always potent, living & exactly what is needed IF THE LORD is casting the seed.

At times we can make the mistake of sharing a truth or seed that the timing is inappropriate but the seed itself is never wrong in and of itself. If the "seed" which is the Word, the truth, the message from the LORD is looked upon separated from our handling of the seed it is pure. The problem is that we sometimes take the pure "seed" and mix it into our broken state and thus we send an unclear message. When that happens many are unable to separate the difference between the messenger and the message. They see the weakness, brokenness and blindness of the messenger and thus throw out the "seed" or message as well. This process is sometimes the truth we must deal with and other times it becomes the convenient excuse the hearer uses to refuse dealing with gospel truth. The problem can be the messenger, the listener or both but never the seed itself.

So what does this mean in the study of the sower parable? If you know the general rules of gardening, you know that some seeds go bad. They can die; they're damaged and diseased sometimes. This happens when seed isn't used or has somehow crossed connections with poisoned elements whatever they are. Truth is still truth in the hands of imperfect disciples but our imperfections can negatively influence the power of the seed. This isn't universally true. It is a simple fact to remember and consider. That said when seed is sown through the hands of imperfect disciples our issues can affect the general outcome or return. If the return is low we must ask the question to ourselves or one another did our "issues" have anything to do with the smaller return? This must be considered. For certain, JESUS tells the sower parable from the perspective of a messenger who is submissive, obedient and directed by HOLY SPIRIT.

We often miss that message in the parable. We must cast the right seed from all the right seed the Father has in His store houses. We must cast the right seed in the right place at the right time to the right persons in the right season in the right spirit for the right motivation in order to best keep ourselves out of the way and enhance the return possibility. So use the pure seed correctly to avoid crop failure.

At the same time, from the parable in M 4:26-29 we learn that truth is not exclusively dependent upon our effort. Vs 27, "Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. 28 All by itself the soil produces grain....." So far what we have considered tonight is our responsibility to obey HOLY SPIRIT as much as possible. But THANK GOD, the seed is still GOD's seed no matter what our inconsistencies may be. Thus the LORD wants us to do our part but HIS seed is faithful and can often work without our total cooperation. We should pray the LORD accomplish HIS work with or without us but that HIS work will grow on anyhow. Perfect climates are wonderful and desirable but the seed will grow in all places. Some are better than others but THANK GOD for His abilities despite our inability and inconsistencies! The issue here is balance, honesty, being teachable, repentance and dependence upon HOLY SPIRIT. Whether we know how or not the LORD works, HE receives the glory! The Father does not have to show us how HE does HIS work in order for it to be accomplished. The M text reminds us of this truth. Again, we have the LORD's perfect seed, His plan and action combined with our need to cooperate. The FATHER is good all the time!

This leads to another type in the expected return. After reading the M text compared to the sower parable consider the following truth. M tells us, "the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. 29 As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come." This one verse encompasses Church history! At first glance that appears impossible. Consider the following. The Kingdom is described as a seed that first becomes a stalk, then a head and eventually a full kernel in the head. In the incredible faithfulness of our mighty GOD, HE is looking for that full kernel of return in whatever wherever HE sowed His truth. Church history can be described in the following venue. So much of it is the work of the FATHER preparing the Church for the second coming of JESUS CHRIST to establish HIS Kingdom rule in our world. As this develops it increases the return the LORD receives. The stalk is the 30 fold return. The head is the 60 fold return. The full kernel in the head is the 100 fold return. While we shouldn't exclusively interpret the sower parable this way consider this. To the degree this interpretation is applicable to our time then we must learn the 100 fold return will only come about at the churches full maturity in correlation with the second coming of JESUS to this world. So, is the LORD telling us the following? He wants a great return but HE knows it will only increase as we approach and proceed through the last days of the last days. It is vital for us to ask ourselves this question. Are we the 30, the 60 or the 100 fold generation? What does ABBA expect of this current generation? What generation are we living in?

As we continue to study the concept of the return Jesus promised this surpassed my current knowledge. I am grateful we are studying this b/c now I must give consideration and find new depth of ground to be taken by this teaching. When Jesus speaks of the promise of the 30, 60 and 100 fold return our LORD is promising something that surpasses even the minds and hearts of those with great faith. Let me attempt to further explain what JESUS has offered to those who would dream HIS dreams and follow HIM beyond the norm. To following is not my writing but another disciple who knows more than I. First, understand that the word fold does not mean how many times a seed is reproduced. So 30 fold is not 30 more times and so on. No, fold is in reference to doubling the result. Consider the following. What is in italics is taken from a teaching I discovered on the internet.

“A two fold return gives you four; three fold gives you eight; four fold = sixteen, fivefold = thirty-two, six fold = sixty-four, seven fold = one hundred twenty-eight, eight fold = two hundred fifty-six. Sound impossible...then it has to be God's principle. I could not stand not knowing what the real numbers would be so I set out to crunch some numbers; at just thirty fold you would get a whopping 1,073,701,824 (that's one billion, seventy-three million, seven hundred-one thousand, eight hundred twenty-four).

Listen, we're talking nine zeroes here; that's phenomenal. Care to take a guess what sixty fold would be? After all that is just thirty fold again. If you guessed 2,147,403,648 you are absolutely wrong. That's right...wrong, wrong, wrong. Sixty fold is 1,151,973,021,073,889,216 (one quintillion, one hundred fifty-one quadrillion, nine hundred seventy-three trillion, twenty-one billion, seventy-three million, eight hundred eighty-nine thousand, two hundred sixteen) which is slightly more than double the thirty fold. How good is God...eighteen zeroes! And that's only sixty fold. Guess, go ahead I dare you...if you are like me, I did not know these numbers existed. I can now say them but still cannot wrap my mind around them...okay here goes...one hundred fold is 1,201,064,595,207,167,685,882,431,343,616 (one nonillion, two hundred-one octillion, sixty-four septillion, five hundred ninety-five sextillion, two hundred seven quintillion, one hundred sixty-seven quadrillion, six hundred eighty-five trillion, eight hundred eighty-two billion, four hundred thirty one million, three hundred forty-three thousand, six hundred-sixteen).”

OK, you may be thinking what I began to realize which is we have so sold ourselves short in what the LORD can do that there are no words to describe what our GOD is willing to do if someone would just trust HIM to the measure of the FATHER's abilities. In fairness to us, JESUS could also be referring to the overall sum total of what HE will do with every open heart that takes HIM at HIS WORD. Remember, where this started in lesson one! The parable is repeated every time the gospel truth is shared.

The new question we now also consider is this. As we continue hearing the gospel, is its power and effect being multiplied out in our lives? Our answer to that indicates whether JESUS' promised return is really developing or not in our life.