

# Open Line Bible Study

## December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017 (Lesson Four)

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

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower (Part two of last week's lesson)

Before we pick back up where we stopped last week in the big paragraph on page 2 of your notes, let's go to Luke's gospel chap 8 and look at that story.

When we consider Luke's account of the Sower parable it is certainly different than M & Mk's setting. The 1<sup>st</sup> verse gives indication of what was stated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> lesson under #6. Jesus surely sometimes used the same stories as necessary. Let's evaluate that fact a moment and see what there is 4 us within the 1<sup>st</sup> verse. While it is not necessarily a major revelation that JESUS taught some of the same parables, stories and healed some of the exact same diseases in various places he also found the same weaknesses and strengths from town to town and synagogue to synagogue. What does this teach us? Wherever JESUS went He taught the good news of the Kingdom of GOD! Now why is it called good news? There are more answers to that question than we have time for but one powerful answer is this. It's called good news b/c it works the LORD's wonders over satan's false authority and what is destroying humanity from town to town and church to church. 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!" The North American Church is in a state of slumber. Therefore where and when you find the local church alive and thriving due to the application of the Kingdom most of those in other dysfunctional sin, devil bound churches refuse to see the difference. Do we ask "Is it possible some churches prosper b/c they are following the Kingdom more closely than do other local churches?" The answer is certainly yes but most persons in sick local churches refuse to consider that. If two churches with almost the exact same resources and possibilities both have an outstanding commitment to Christ and HIS message and then one prospers and the other one continues to decline this leaves more questions than most persons wish to consider. But be assured. The problem is not GOD or GOD favoring one local church over another no matter how well each local church seeks the Kingdom! The LORD will bless faithfully seeking His purpose. The LORD makes no promises to those who cannot come to terms with the need to surrender, repent, die to one's self and prioritize the Kingdom.

Since Jesus went from town to town saying the same thing over and over again then we should take notes and do what He taught! Verse one states, "The Twelve were with Him and also some woman who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases." Disciples go where JESUS goes. There will be those who once they have been transformed by JESUS they will further follow after HIS ministry and will support it as they can. When I first considered these few verses I didn't think there was great connection to the Sower parable. But consider this. When JESUS told this parable over and over in front of His committed Disciples, I am convinced that HE wanted them to learn what we learned in the first lesson. JESUS wanted His 1<sup>st</sup> followers to see what happens every time, anytime, anywhere the gospel is shared. The sower principal is repeated. I don't know what specific explanation JESUS used with the 12 disciples or the women referred to or others but JESUS L.T.K. your investment into this Kingdom will work if you learn its secrets! Sowing is not just about finances but is about any investment we make. We want the best return that is possible and the LORD is disclosing Kingdom secrets as He taught. We'll discuss this later in other studies. From the woman referred to we learn this truth. When the Kingdom of GOD is applied the devil's kingdom has to go!

Now we return to the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Lesson to consider more truths found in the setting of the parable.

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! (We start here on 12/12/17) 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. Either we really believe and know the LORD has finished His work or we don't believe and know these truths and the difference is obvious for all of us.