

Open Line Bible Study

December 19th, 2017 (Lesson Five)

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

Subject Matter: The Parable of the Sower (Part three of the last 2 week's lesson & intro to the Story)

We've now covered the Setting in each gospel. We are about to examine the story. We'll now finish the last part of Lesson Three regarding our invitation to Stand in Christ! 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, (Start here 12/19) Last week we saw numerous truths that describe what does it mean to Stand in Christ? Briefly reviewing the verses we covered last week regarding Standing let's summarize 1st Peter 5:9 (When you Stand in the faith and truth this will effectively resist the adversary).

Acts 7:55 (A power packed verse!) Is Jesus moved to Stand with you? He will Stand with you when you obey HIM! Jesus is moved to Stand by our obedience to HIM! Jesus Stands at the right hand of GOD! When you Stand you are drawn closer to the position, lifestyle and authority to drive the devil out! If you are Standing in Christ, Christ is Standing with you! Jesus is willing to Stand up for YOU as you move in obedience to HIM!)

John 20:14 (As you learn to Stand in Christ, as Mary did you may not first recognize what you are doing as being the process of Standing in Christ. This new position is so unlike our own efforts and agenda that when those around us Stand in Christ, we may not recognize they are doing the right thing. Jesus Stood b/4 Mary in His resurrection grace, glory and position and she DID NOT RECOGNIZE THE LORD! How often I have done likewise and the LORD is now opening my eyes to this truth and my dullness of perception of HIS ways!)

Luke 4:9 (This is profound! Satan knew the total authority of Christ. He knew what Christ deserved and the position of authority JESUS lived in. Thus he knew JESUS was the supreme head of GOD's purposes and that Satan had to honor that. Thus he put JESUS where He should be and THEN ATTEMPTED TO PERVERT THAT POSITION INTO LESS, OTHER & MISDIRECTED WAYS THAN THE PURPOSE GOD GAVE CHRIST HIS POWER, PLACE AND SUPREMACY. What Satan did in his own fall he wanted JESUS to do but JESUS would not!!! It was not yet the ultimate time for JESUS to STAND in recognition of HIS supremacy over the earth. JESUS was not going to allow the devil to put JESUS where He ultimately deserved to be. JESUS was going to let the FATHER do that in the FATHER's timing, not Satan's! This is a lesson few learn. You are only allowed to Stand in greater authority as you first Stand in obedience in smaller lessons and in the FATHER's timing) Now on to the verses we have not examined.

Mark 3:3 (Did you know the LORD will eventually say to each one of us, "STAND UP! JESUS is willing to Stand with us and do in us and through us what we never can do but it does require our STANDING Up when HE tells us to)

Romans 5:2 (Our Standing in Christ is one of position in relationship that surpasses the limitations of our mindset. We are always Standing whether we know it or not, feel it or not, or are activating our faith or not. The position of Standing in Christ is always true in the spirit realm even when our mind is unaware of this reality)

1st Cor 15:1 (While the last point is true, its effect are limited when we don't know how true it is. You can only ultimately Stand in what you have heard, understood and received. Remember the Bobby Cabot testimony I told last week) Ehp 6:11(Every one of us must Stand against Satan's work. Everyone has a task, has a challenge, has a call and must discern the enemies' schemes. Standing is only possible when we take into account all the counsel of GOD, His full armor!) Ehp 6:13 (We each have a ground that has been given us and that we are to guard against the enemy taking from us! There is a day of evil that approaches us at times in the faith journey. There are times we will only Stand when we have done all we knew to do in the Spirit and in the counsel of GOD)

Col 4:12 (What a verse so full of truth! We are enabled to Stand when others around us have Stood and start Standing for our benefit too! If any of us are learning to Stand firm in all the will of GOD it is certainly b/c someone is praying on our behalf! Standing firm brings maturity and full assurance our LORD is faithful!)

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.

As we move into the story of the parable, recognize the following truth about Standing. Consider Matthew 12:30, "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters." So we must realize, accept, receive and work our call into the purpose of GOD. Look at Matt 13:3, "A famer went out to sow HIS seed." To Stand in Christ partially means we Stand with Christ in what HE is doing. We are called to this parable being worked over and over in our lives each time we get up in the morning and do, speak or go anywhere. Not a day goes by that JESUS does not sow His purpose into the world or the church. Are we aware of that? Are we seeking to know what HIS current plan is that He will disclose to us if we only seek HIM to know it? So, we are either Standing in His current purpose through obedience and careful consideration prayerfully discerning HIS intentions or we are scattering through our neglect and insensitive self focused over preoccupation with our self. GOD is beyond merciful and patient but the time comes to Stand in HIS purpose first even while we may have personal struggles.

From reading the Story, there are slight differences between M, Mk & L. Let's read it in a combined version of the 3 sources. I'll explain the code. "Listen! (Mk) A farmer went out to sow his seed. (3) As he was scattering the seed some fell along the path, (3) it was trampled on (L) and the birds came and ate it up. (M,Mk) Luke states, "and the birds of the air ate it up". (Then) Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, b/c the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered b/c they had no root. (M,Mk) Luke states, "Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered b/c they had no moisture". (Then) Other seed fell among thorns which grew up (L adds "with it") and choked the plants.(3) Mk adds, "so that they did not bear grain". (Then) Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop. (M) Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, (Mk) Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, (L) A hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.(M) Multiplying thirty, sixty or even a hundred times(Mk) a hundred times more than was sown. (L) Each of these little differences reveals more truth to learn from & Stand on.

The Challenge: M13:9 "He who has ears, let him hear" Mk 4:9 "Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." L8:8 "When he had said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Jesus is calling the same Word out to us now as we listen to His parable of how the Kingdom works!