

Open Line Bible Study

Lesson Six January 2, 2018

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

Tonight's Subject Matter: the Story, the Challenge, the Question, the Answer

If you haven't done so, it will be most helpful to print out Lesson 3 which overviews the parable.

Look at the story without the insertions added into it and see what HOLY SPIRIT might say to you about the parable. So this is the 3 texts combined without notes. "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed some fell along the path, it was trampled on and the birds of the air came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places; some fell on rock where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly; b/c the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, and when it came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered b/c they had no root and had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns which grew up with it and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. Still other seed fell on good soil, it came up, grew where it produced and yielded a crop. A hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. It is multiplying thirty, sixty or even a hundred times, a hundred times more than was sown.

In the event you are not aware of this, there are numerous Biblical Scholars who have combined the synoptic gospels or all four gospels for the sake of seeing each story in one story. So, what you see here is not uncommon if you are not familiar with this approach to study the gospels.

The following comments are derived from the story of the parable. 1) Listen! Every time JESUS speaks He doesn't always start with the command to listen. Mk remembers this story being told at least once with this beginning warning/exhortation. While we should listen to every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of GOD for they all benefit us, I have noticed the following. In every occasion the LORD has spoken to me there have been a few times HOLY SPIRIT has declared, "LISTEN"! Again we should always listen but why would the LORD add this in some situations?

Several answers here, first, we may not be listening at all or not as much as we think.

Second, GOD knowing our heart, character, maturity can sometimes see the SPIRIT must speak with more warning or stronger emphasis to us to obtain our attention.

Three, occasionally the word "Listen" is a form of rebuke or correction.

Four, the LORD knows there are times that if we don't "Listen" right now then we will miss our connection to some plan of GOD that is immediate, crucial, and necessary or for our great benefit and advancement. We cannot afford to miss the plea to "Listen" and then "Listen" immediately.

Five, the LORD is challenging us to "Listen" with our spirit ability rather than our natural ability. We must learn to hear beyond the realm of our own mind and common sense. We must hear with our super uncommon sense. The Spirit speaks to our spirit within us. We must become fine-tuned and sensitive!

Six, when we hear "Listen" it could mean the LORD sees that we are too pre-occupied with the circumstances around us we are in. We are listening to the voices, sounds and issues around us rather than focusing in on listening to what GOD says!

Seven, this one bothers many believers as they learn to grapple with it. We have assumed that if GOD really speaks then we are somehow guaranteed to hear HIM no matter what! This just is not true. GOD can speak even to those who have listened to the LORD but then we can miss His voice in later situations. If our spiritual senses are dull, shocked, unused, etc. we could miss the Word of the LORD when HE speaks. Simply put, just b/c GOD speaks doesn't mean we'll always hear that word from HIM!

Eight, the word "Listen" can denote that the LORD is about to tell us something new, different or very challenging to our character and situation. Often, further ability to listen is necessary with a new word from GOD.

Nine, "Listen" may mean the last time the LORD spoke to you, you didn't listen.

Ten, "Listen" may mean that a great test is coming. Are you ready?

Eleven, "Listen" may mean that if you will "Listen" then there will be advancement into the Kingdom through what the LORD is about to say.

Twelve, "Listen" separates the wheat and the tares, the sheep and the goats, the committed and the uncommitted, the babe in Christ and the Disciple.

Thirteen, when we will "Listen" we are ministering to the LORD through our sensitivity and obedience to HIM!

Fourteen, "Listen" can mean a shift is coming in the work of GOD. Are you ready to move, change, learn, etc?

Fifteen, we really are not listening if we really are not obeying. So the LORD can be thinking about us, will you obey me when HE states "Listen"!

Sixteen, "Listen" can denote that where we are at is NOT where we can stay to remain in the plan of GOD!

Seventeen, "Listen" can announce to us that we are too influenced by the Kingdom of this world and are being invited into the Kingdom of GOD in a new revelation of its benefit to us.

Eighteen, "Listen" may challenge us to consider the question, "can you see the difference in the two contrasts of where, who, what you are right now compared to what the LORD is saying?" The LORD is different than us and the word "Listen" can denote that reality.

Nineteen, "Listen" is an invitation to step into the opportunity before us presented by the LORD's word.

Twenty, "Listen" means that you can listen. DO NOT SAY "I JUST CANNOT HEAR GOD". That is accepting a lie from the enemy! All Disciples are given the ability to hear and heed the Shepherd's voice!

Twenty One, "Listen" may mean this. If you don't "Listen" right now, you may regret it or deeply regret it!

Twenty Two, "Listen" denotes the LORD's desire to treat you as a son and no longer as just a servant. You have sonship in Christ! Let the LORD develop within you the faith of sonship moving from a slave/servant mentality. Be freed from an orphan spirit!

Twenty Three, "Listen" can mean what Mark 4:13 implies. If you don't listen now then you will not go any further in some venue of GOD's call. This is sobering!

Twenty Four, "Listen" means to continue listening. How often do we pray to continue our listening? Do we pray for ears to hear and eyes to see?

Twenty Five, "Listen" is more important than we ever imagined. Without the skill to listen then we will miss what is actually being said. Listening is not just hearing. It is understanding, obeying, identifying with the intent of the Word. We have never realized how important listening really was. After all these and others the Spirit could show us are we really ready to "Listen" to the parable of the sower?

So far, this study is derived from one comment in the story line!

One word, "Listen"! With so much to consider let me encourage you with the following info. Here is a general outline of what we will examine from this parable before we finish.

First, we'll discover the 4 Hearts picture of this parable. Each heart is described in profound detail in the story.

Secondly, sample prayers will be given to teach us to pray over the condition of each heart with the goal to move to the Prepared Heart development of Discipleship. This will increase our ability to discern the "heart" of a person, issue, situation or atmosphere. You have to learn what you are dealing with. What is the "heart" of the issue?

Third, we will examine each Key Issue in the story. Then we will relate the progression of each Key Issue to our lifeline to better see where we are and how well do we identify with the "Unseen Heart" in the story!

Fourth, we will learn to see this pattern every time the gospel is shared by the 5 fold ministry and how we can cooperate with this process as we are workers in the vineyard!

Fifth, we'll see the Key Players in this process. What role do they play in my life? Who is the sower, the seed, the heart, the enemy, the problem, the promise?