

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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LUKE’S “PARABLE OF THE SOWER”

Larry R. Ping II

Luke 8:4 reports, “*And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable.*”

Consider these great lessons from Luke’s account of this wonderful parable.

1) THE SEED WAS SOWN. It should always be pointed out, when studying this parable, the “*sower went out to sow his seed*” (Lk. 8:5). If the seed is not planted, it cannot grow. Paul penned, “*I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase*” (I Cor. 3:6). Haggai asked, “*Is the seed yet in the barn*” (Hag. 2:19)? Jesus identified the seed in this parable as “*the word of God*” (Lk. 8:11). We must be sure the seed is being planted.

2) SOME SEED WILL FALL ON THE WAYSIDE. As a result of this, the seed “*was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it*” (Lk. 8:5). The Lord later says, “*Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of*

their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved” (Lk. 8:12). These words help us to appreciate the devil is at work, and he is good at what he does. This is why Peter commands, “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*” (I Pet. 5:8).

3) SOME SEED WILL FALL UPON THE ROCK. Soon after, though, “*it*” will spring up and wither “*away, because it lacked moisture*” (Lk. 8:6). God’s Son would add, “*They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away*” (Lk. 8:13). These words help us appreciate the need for a sure and strong foundation. Peter, on two occasions, wrote of the need to be growing. He said, “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby*” (I Pet. 2:2), and later would author, “*But grow in*

grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen” (II Pet. 3:18). God’s people cannot grow satisfied with their present state of affairs. They must always be growing and thriving. Are you?

4) SOME SEED WILL FALL AMONG THORNS. As such, “*the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it*” (Lk. 8:7). The Savior adds, “*And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection*” (Lk. 8:14). James warned, “*Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world*” (Jam. 1:27). He later would caution, “*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the*

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world is the enemy of God" (Jam. 4:4). May we always follow the admonishing of Paul when he wrote, *"be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God"* (Rom. 12:2).

5) SOME SEED WILL FALL ON GOOD GROUND.

As a result, it *"sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold"* (Lk. 8:8). After, Jesus would include, *"But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience"* (Lk. 8:15). This is the ground for which we pray and hope. But as evidenced by this parable, this soil represented only one of four. This is why it is important to train ourselves to be teachers of God's Word, and His Word alone. Paul instructed, *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (II Tim. 2:15). This is why the Bereans were

said to be noble, or excellent, because they *"received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so"* (Acts 17:11). Our family and friends are relying upon us to have the necessary knowledge to teach them the Truth. Can you? Can I? And our fervent prayer is they will have an open and receptive heart.

6) THIS PARABLE REINFORCES THE VALUE OF HEARING.

Once Jesus was finished telling of the four soils and the results, He simply said, *"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear"* (Lk. 8:8). In reality, Jesus offered this instruction quite often. Each speech to the seven Asian-minor churches ended with the same admonition. The Romans were told, *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). May we hear God's Word with the intent to obey it!

7) THIS PARABLE TEACHES US THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL.

It is just as the old hymn suggests,

"Received ye freely, freely give, From every land they call; Unless they hear, they cannot live: The Gospel is for all." James spoke of not having respect of persons when he iterated, *"My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts"* (Jam. 2:1-4)? When it comes to preaching and teaching God's Word and sowing the seed of the Kingdom, we must not have respect of persons. We must not make predeterminations as to who will and will not accept the Gospel! We must, as the man in the parable, sow the seed in all places. Are we?

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm