

*The Sower*

*Behold, a sower went forth to sow - Matthew 13:3*

This text addresses the heart of man and how God reaches out to it through His church on earth. It exposes four conditions of heart: the uncaring heart; the ever-learning heart; the cares-of-life heart; and the good heart—the only heart willing to listen to the word and to try all spirits against the word. Not all hearts are able to “hear” the word because they do not prayerfully seek guidance from the Holy Scriptures. Nevertheless, God calls all hearts through various ways regardless of their condition, “so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20) on the Day of Judgment if they reject His call to repentance.

In this parable, Jesus describes a sower indiscriminately casting seeds all around. As a result, some seed fell on the pathway at the edge of the garden (Matthew 13:4) where many have walked, hardening the soil, laying it bare. (It’s as if this heart follows the path taken by many others.) This heart is so hard that the word of God cannot penetrate it and, as such, it has no desire to hear the word, though it is exposed to the word, so Satan assures that the word will do this heart no good, “*When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side*” (Matthew 13:19).

Some seed fell onto stony soil (Matthew 13:5-6), depicting a heart that eagerly receives new teachings (Matthew 13:20) but that does not adequately use scripture to prove them, “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*” (1 John 4:1). Because these hearts are not firmly established in the word, they move on to other understandings when Satan begins to test them, thus adding more stones of unbelief into the heart making it even harder for the word to find fertile soil.

Other seed fell among thorns (Matthew 13:7)—the cares of life—which choked them. Though many cares in life are necessary and good,

they become a detriment when they begin to crowd out Jesus, “*He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me*” (Matthew 10:37). Again, this heart is exposed to the word, it just has other ideas that take precedent over the word “*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful*” (Matthew 13:22).

Finally, some seed fell into the garden (Matthew 13:8, 23) and, because it had been previously prepared by God, the seed germinated and produced much fruit.

Our parable teaches us that we, as sowers, should spread the word of God (the seed) to all kinds of hearts. We should not decide who should or should not hear the word. As we learned, much of the seed fell unto hearts that were not prepared to receive it but it was nonetheless cast into those places. There are many who want to hear the word, but only on their own terms. They probably faithfully attend church and show great love to their neighbors thinking that because they are living according to God’s commandments (they are) and because they believe in Jesus (they do) they will be acceptable to God only to learn that they are not. Jesus warns against placing false hope in such works, “*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity*” (Matthew 7:21-23).

Pray that you are not among those who only think that they are saved!

God’s Peace,  
Charles Korhonen

Nov 4	Ken Storm	Holy Communion 11am
Nov 11	Charles Korhonen	
Nov 18	Ken Storm	
Nov 25	Nathan Ruonavaara	

Sunday School/Adult Bible Studay 10am  
Church at 11:00am  
Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.

Church Cleaning Charles and Jane Korhonen

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