

Sunday - May 17, 2020

Speaking of Soils

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Today's Scripture: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.
⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.
⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

THE LORD IS HONEST; THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING TO BE LOST

Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. *John 15:4*

- Wayside people never come to know the Lord
- Jesus declared the truth clearly
 - There is a narrow way that leads to Heaven, and a wide way that leads to destruction
 - Unless you repent, you will perish

- Some are lost, and some are found
- The sower never gives up
- What holds people back from trusting Christ?
 - They hear the word, but don't receive it
 - Satan is actively trying to prevent them from coming to faith

SOME WILL BELIEVE BUT THEY WILL BE FRUITLESS FOLLOWERS

Some fall away when everything goes wrong

this is he who hears the word with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only awhile. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles." Matthew 13:20-21

Some fall away when everything goes right

"he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful." Matthew 13:22

Christ is calling every one of us to ask ourselves a simple question – Is the main thing the main thing?

ABUNDANT BELIEVERS

"he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces." Matthew 13:23

Here is the key – It is a fruitfulness that endures

An abundant believer understands that the richest fruit often comes after a season of faithful growth