

"THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER"**Introduction**

1. Definition of a Parable
2. The need we have of God's help: "ears..."
3. The principle: prepare in secret

1. THE SOWER – WHAT IS HE?

- 1) a minister of Christ's gospel: Romans 10:13-15
- 2) not every preacher:
 - i) loves the truth
 - ii) loves souls
- 3) he must be
 - i) converted
 - ii) sound // God's word

APPLICATION: Do not be gullible about preachers

2. THE SEED – WHAT IS IT?

- 1) The truth of Christ's gospel
- 2) Essential:
 - i) man's heart
 - ii) need
 - iii) God's remedy

ILLUSTRATION: "There are no sinners here!"

3. THE ACT OF SOWING

- 1) explaining the truth of God re. salvation
- 2) Christ is the gospel first and last

- 3) Our part: to repent and believe
ILLUSTRATION: The preaching of John, Christ, Peter
OBSERVE: The preacher's responsibility is to tell the people the truth – he cannot convert

4. THE FOUR KINDS OF GROUND

- 1) "Wayside": v.19
 - i) no understanding – some go away as ignorant as they came
 - ii) Satan – who and what he is
 - iii) "catcheth away": distractions for their minds; no fear of God
ILLUSTRATION: OT King who burnt it
OBSERVE: "Gospel-hardened". "The sun that melts the butter hardens the clay"
ILLUSTRATION: Dog in blacksmiths forge
APPLICATION: Pray you may not be so
- 2) "Stony places": shallow hearer:
 - i) very excited at first and for a time
ILLUSTRATION: wants to rush into church membership. For a while goes to every meeting, but...
EXAMPLE: Demas, apparently.
 - ii) upset by the problems: "tribulation..."
 This is one reason why God allows problems – to test the genuineness of our faith
 - iii) not a real believer – "no root" = "saving faith" Cp. notional faith
APPLICATION: Make sure you are real
- 3) "Among Thorns": worldly hearer
 - i) A promising start – but never truly saved
 - ii) caught up with worldly cares and money
Q. "Deceitfulness? Why? Displace God.
ILLUSTRATION: John 6 – what a disappointment!
APPLICATION: Don't be deceived
- 4) "Good Ground": really converted
 - i) "understand": see its relevance to them
 - ii) "first": godliness / faithfulness / help forward the work of God / evangelise

iii) some more than others: 30/60/100

OBSERVE:

- ♦ some believers more spiritual
- ♦ some will be higher in heaven

ILLUSTRATION: Whitfield re Wesley

APPLICATION: Each esteem others more highly

CONCLUSION

1. Do you see the meaning?
2. Do you believe the gospel?
3. Are you a good/bad hearer?

PSALM

119: 17 – 24

19: 7 – 11

119: 97 – 102