

# Preparation of the Sower

# Preparation is Key

- Work requires preparation!
  - Preaching requires significant amounts of studying
  - Bible study classes require effort from teachers *and* students
  - Personal evangelism also needs work to be done in advance
- 2 Timothy 4:1-2
  - <sup>1</sup> I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: <sup>2</sup> Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

# Parable of the Sower

- Matthew 13:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying:

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

# Parable of the Sower

- Matthew 13:18-23

- <sup>18</sup> “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.”

# Parable of the Sower

- Four 'soils'
  - Wayside: lacks understanding, seed doesn't sprout
  - Stony places: seed sprouts, but doesn't have depth and stumbles
  - Thorns: seed sprouts, choked by cares and riches, unfruitful
  - Good ground: understands Word, grows and bears fruit
- One 'seed'
  - The Word of God (Luke 8:11)
- The 'sower'
  - The one out sowing the seed, sharing the Gospel
    - Jesus the ultimate Sower
    - All who follow Him are to sow the seed as well!

# Preparation of the Sower

## I. Procuring our seeds

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- We need to prepare good seed for physical sowing
  - Improperly-stored seeds can grow mold and die
  - Old seeds can be less viable
  - Not all seeds are beneficial
- We need to prepare *spiritual* seed as well!
  - Jesus tells us what this seed is: the Word of God
- 2 Timothy 3:16-17
  - <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

# I. Procuring our seeds

- Note only one type of seed!
  - We don't need different seeds for different situations
  - We don't need to add something else to the seed
- Danger in using 'worldly' seed
- Colossians 2:8-10
  - <sup>8</sup> Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.
  - <sup>9</sup> For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup> and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

# Preparation of the Sower

I. Procuring our seeds

**II. Practicing our sowing**

## II. Practicing our sowing

- Certain knowledge required for growing physical plants
  - Back of a seed packet: when to sow, depth, spacing, etc.
- Knowledge required to be able to sow spiritually
- Hebrews 5:12-14
  - <sup>12</sup> For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. <sup>13</sup> For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. <sup>14</sup> But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- In order to *teach* the Word, one must *know* the Word!

## II. Practicing our sowing

- Farmers don't sow *occasionally*, they sow *every year*
  - Continual, missing even one year can result in starvation
- We need to be spiritually busy as well!
  - Shouldn't want to miss even one opportunity
- Luke 2:46-49
  - <sup>46</sup> Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. <sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. <sup>48</sup> So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." <sup>49</sup> And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?"

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- Luke 2:46-49
- 1 Peter 3:15
  - But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear

# Preparation of the Sower

- I. Procuring our seeds
- II. Practicing our sowing
- III. Picking our site**

### III. Picking our site

- Farmers sow on a farm, not in a parking lot
  - Farmers seek out good soil as a priority, avoid soil that becomes unfruitful
- We, too, must be wise in our spiritual sowing!
- Matthew 7:6
  - “Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”
- Inherent danger in spreading the Gospel
  - Not all places will be hospitable to the Word
  - Must be careful when and where we choose to sow

### III. Picking our site

- Matthew 10:11-18

- <sup>11</sup> “Now whatever city or town you enter, inquire who in it is worthy, and stay there till you go out. <sup>12</sup> And when you go into a household, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the household is worthy, let your peace come upon it. But if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> And whoever will not receive you nor hear your words, when you depart from that house or city, shake off the dust from your feet. <sup>15</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment than for that city!
- <sup>16</sup> “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. <sup>17</sup> But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. <sup>18</sup> You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.”

### III. Picking our site

- The sower in the parable is throwing seed *everywhere*
  - Intention is to sow in the good soil
  - Tossing seed far enough to land on the wayside and in thorns
- Mark 4:26-29
  - <sup>26</sup> And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, <sup>27</sup> and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. <sup>28</sup> For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. <sup>29</sup> But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”
- 1 Corinthians 3:6-7
  - <sup>6</sup> I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. <sup>7</sup> So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase.