

SERIES: LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR
HAS COME, WEEK 57

TITLE: THE PARABLE OF THE SOILS, PART I

TEXT: LUKE 8:4-12

INTRODUCTION: (1) FRUIT BEARING IS THE
WHOLE POINT OF AGRICULTURE. WITHOUT IT A
FARMER CANNOT STAY IN BUSINESS.

* FRUIT BEARING IS ALSO THE ULTIMATE TEST,
THE TRUE TEST OF GENUINE SALVATION OR
CONVERSION.

** NOW NOT EVERY CHRISTIAN WILL ALWAYS
BEAR AS MUCH FRUIT AS WE OUGHT TO OR
COULD.

*** BUT EVERY TRUE CHRISTIAN IS FRUITFUL TO
SOME DEGREE.

**** AND YES TRUE CHRISTIANS ARE DISOBEDIENT AND OF COURSE WE STILL SIN. THE ISSUE IS NEVER PERFECTION BUT DIRECTION BUT ULTIMATELY BELIEVERS ARE IDENTIFIABLE BY THEIR FRUIT.

(2) FOR IF A PERSON TRULY KNOWS THE LORD, THERE WILL BE EVIDENCES, DEEDS, ACTIONS, WORKS AND FRUITS THAT GENUINE CONVERSION HAS TAKEN PLACE, JAMES 2:17 **SAYS: "EVEN SO FAITH, IF IT HAS NO WORKS, IS DEAD, BEING BY ITSELF."**

* NOW FAITH WITHOUT WORKS OR FRUITS IS **DEAD FAITH, IT'S NOT REAL SAVING FAITH,** JAMES 2:26 SAYS:

** SO THERE ARE VISIBLE WORKS, CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE, FOR THE TRUE BELIEVER, THE OLD IS PASSING AND THE NEW IS TAKING OVER, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:17.

*** AND BEING IN CHRIST, SALVATION MAKES A PERSON A NEW CREATURE, A NEW CREATION. SALVATION IS SUPERNATURAL, IT STARTS A PROCESS OF TRANSFORMATION THAT MAKES US MORE AND MORE LIKE CHRIST.

**** YET, AS OUR EVANGELISTIC BIBLE STUDY, THE RED BOOK ON HOW TO KNOW GOD STATES IN LESSON 9 AND I QUOTE, "**SOME PEOPLE** CLAIM TO BE CHRISTIANS, BUT THEIR LIVES DO NOT SHOW ANY MARKED DIFFERENCE AFTER THEIR SUPPOSED CONVERSION.

(3) THEY SEEMED TO BE GENUINE WHEN THEY MADE THEIR PROFESSION TO BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST, AND THEY SEEMED TO HAVE A REPENTANT HEART.

* THEY SAID THEY BECAME A CHRISTIAN, BUT THAT WAS MANY YEARS AGO, AND THEIR LIVES ARE NOT MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THEY WERE BEFORE THEIR SUPPOSED SALVATION.

** PERHAPS THEY RESPONDED TO AN ALTAR **CALL OR ENGAGED IN THE "SINNER'S PRAYER"** YEARS AGO OR WHEN THEY WERE A CHILD, OR POSSIBLY THEY HAVE AN INTELLECTUAL BELIEF IN JESUS.

*** THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, IS THAT THERE IS NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THEIR LIVES AND THOSE IN THE REST OF THE WORLD.

**** THERE IS NO HUNGER FOR GOD, A LIFE DIFFERENT THAN THE WORLD, AND A DESIRE TO GROW SPIRITUALLY. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY ABOUT SUCH A ONE? (END QUOTE)

(4) WELL, THE BIBLE SAYS THEY ARE NOT SAVED. YET, MANY INDIVIDUALS ARE BANKING THEIR ETERNAL DESTINIES ON A PAST PROFESSION WITH NO PRESENT RIGHTEOUSNESS OR DESIRE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

* MANY ARE BANKING ON HEAVEN BECAUSE THERE WAS AN APPARENT CHANGE FOR AWHILE, EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE FALLEN AWAY AND HAVE NOT RETURNED.

** WELL, PERSEVERANCE OF THE FAITH AND NOT PROFESSION OF FAITH IS AN EVIDENCE OF TRUE SALVATION.

*** AND ALL OF US HAVE SEEN PEOPLE THAT PROFESS FAITH AND ARE ONE MONTH WONDERS OR ONE YEAR WONDERS, OR WONDERS FOR A TIME, BUT NO LONGER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE BIBLE OR THE CHURCH. ARE THESE PEOPLE SAVED?

**** WELL, IN THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED WHICH IS A PARABLE OF THE SOILS, JESUS ADDRESSES THIS QUESTION.

(5) AND OUT OF 4 KINDS OF SOILS; THE ROADSIDE SOIL, THE ROCKY SOIL, THE THORNY SOIL AND THE GOOD SOIL, ONLY ONE SOIL, THE GOOD SOIL, PRODUCES FRUIT THAT LASTS, AND ARE SAVED OR ARE BELIEVERS IN THIS PARABLE. JUST ONE SOIL OUT OF 4.

*** AND BY GOD'S GRACE WE'LL LOOK AT LUKE'S** CONDENSED VERSION OF THIS PARABLE THE NEXT TWO SUNDAYS **AND I'LL ATTEMPT BY GOD'S GRACE TO EXPLAIN IT'S MEANING BY** LOOKING AT 3 MAIN POINTS IN PART I TODAY. NO. 1 THE PLACE, V. 4A; NO. 2 THE PARABLE, V. 4B-11; AND NO. 3 THE PRINCIPLE, V. 12.

**** AND WITH THAT SHORT OUTLINE AS OUR GUIDE, LOOK AT V. 4A PLEASE OF LUKE 8 WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR FIRST POINT, THE PLACE.**

I. THE PLACE, (READ V. 4A)

A. NOW A LARGE CROWD AGAIN WAS GATHERING TOGETHER TO HEAR JESUS. AND ACCORDING TO V. 4, THIS LARGE CROWD CONSISTED NOT ONLY OF PEOPLE FROM THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY, BUT ALSO FROM VARIOUS OTHER CITIES PEOPLE WERE JOURNEYING TO HIM.

* JESUS WAS STILL VERY POPULAR AT THIS JUNCTURE OF HIS MINISTRY IN GALILEE, EVEN THOUGH THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF JUDAISM HAD REJECTED HIM.

**** NOW IN MATTHEW'S PARALLEL ACCOUNT IN MATTHEW 13:1&2 WE HAVE SOME IDEA WHERE THE PLACE OF THIS PARABLE IS LOCATED, FOR IT SAYS: "THAT DAY JESUS WENT OUT OF THE HOUSE AND WAS SITTING BY THE SEA. AND LARGE CROWDS GATHERED TO HIM, SO HE GOT INTO A BOAT AND SAT DOWN, AND THE WHOLE CROWD WAS STANDING **ON THE BEACH.**"**

*** NOW JESUS LEAVES A HOUSE THAT HE IS AT IN CAPERNAUM AND GOES TO THE SHORE OF THE SEA OF GALILEE. AND BECAUSE OF THE LARGE CROWD THAT PRESSED HIM, JESUS GOT INTO A BOAT AND SAT DOWN TO TEACH THE PEOPLE WHO STOOD ON THE BEACH.

**** NOW HIS TEACHING WILL BE IN A PARABLE, **LOOK BACK AT V. 4 PLEASE WHERE WE'LL SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE PARABLE.**

II. THE PARABLE, (READ V. 4)

A. NOW THE LESSON TO THE PEOPLE ON THE BEACH THAT DAY WAS BY WAY OF A PARABLE.

* AND, A PARABLE IS AN EARTHLY ILLUSTRATION OF A DIVINE PRINCIPLE, AN EARTHLY STORY WITH A HEAVENLY MEANING, IT IS REVELATION BY ILLUSTRATION TO AID UNDERSTANDING.

** THE WORD FOR PARABLE IN THE GREEK IS A COMPOUND WORD MADE UP OF A FORM OF THE VERB BALLO WHICH MEANS TO THROW, LAY, OR PLACE AND THE PREFIX PARA MEANING ALONGSIDE OF.

*** NOW AS YOU CONNECT THOSE MEANINGS YOU GET THE IDEA OF PLACING OR LAYING SOMETHING ALONGSIDE OF SOMETHING ELSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF COMPARISON.

**** SO A SPIRITUAL OR MORAL TRUTH WOULD OFTEN BE EXPRESSED BY LAYING IT ALONGSIDE, SO TO SPEAK, TO A PHYSICAL EXAMPLE THAT COULD BE MORE EASILY UNDERSTOOD.

1. A COMMON, OBSERVABLE OBJECT OR PRACTICE WAS USED TO ILLUSTRATE A SUBJECTIVE TRUTH OR PRINCIPLE.

* THAT WHICH WAS WELL KNOWN WAS LAID ALONGSIDE THAT WHICH WAS NOT KNOWN OR UNDERSTOOD IN ORDER TO EXPLAIN IT. THE KNOWN CLARIFIED OR EXPLAINED OR ELUCIDATED THE UNKNOWN.

**** AND THAT'S WHAT JESUS DOES HERE IN THIS PARABLE OF THE SOILS IN LUKE 8 WHICH LEADS US TO THE MEAT OF THE PARABLE, WHICH STARTS IN V. 5, OUR 2'D POINT FOR TODAY. LOOK AT V. 5 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 5.

A. NOW THE ACTUAL PARABLE ITSELF STARTS **HERE IN V. 5, "THE SOWER GOES OUT TO SOW HIS SEED."**

* NOW IT IS VERY LIKELY, THAT LOOKING AWAY FROM THE SEA OF GALILEE, BEHIND THE CROWD BEYOND THE BEACH, THERE WAS A MAN ACTUALLY SOWING SEED AT THAT TIME.

1. BUT REGARDLESS, THAT SCENE WAS FAMILIAR TO THE PEOPLE OF THAT DAY, WHETHER THEY WERE FARMERS OR NOT.

* AND THE PICTURE WAS A MAN WITH HIS SEED BAG SLUNG OVER HIS SHOULDER WOULD GO OUT TO SOW. AND AS HE WALKED UP AND DOWN THE FURROWS OF HIS FIELD, HE SOWED AS HE WENT, REPEATEDLY REACHING INTO HIS BAG FOR A HANDFUL OF SEED TO CAST ON EITHER SIDE.

** AND UNDERSTAND WHEN A SOWER SOWED SEED IN THAT DAY, THE SEEDS WERE NOT CAREFULLY PLACED IN HOLES OR PLOWED FURROWS AS IN MANY KINDS OF CONTEMPORARY PLANTING.

*** A SOWER WALKED ALONG HIS FIELD WITH A BAG OF SEED AGAIN SLUNG OVER HIS SHOULDER, AND TOOK HANDFULS OF SEED AND LIBERALLY SCATTERED IT WITH A SWINGING MOTION OF THE ARM.

**** AND WHEN BROADCASTING SEED BY HAND IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO CONTROL ACCURATELY WHERE ALL THE SEED FELL, SO THE KEY WAS GET ENOUGH ON THE GOOD GROUND TO INSURE A GOOD HARVEST.

**** BUT IN THE PROCESS SOME SEED WAS BOUND TO FALL BESIDE THE ROAD.

- AND UNDERSTAND THE PICTURE ABOUT GALILEAN ROADS IN PALESTINE, ESPECIALLY THE HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE GALILEE REGION, WAS CRISSCROSSED WITH FIELDS. AND A ROAD HERE REFERS PRIMARILY TO THE NARROW PATHS THAT SEPARATED ONE FIELD FROM ANOTHER.

1. FARMERS USED THE PATHS TO WALK BETWEEN THE FIELDS, AND TRAVELERS WALKED ON THEM AS THEY WENT FROM ONE PART OF THE COUNTRY TO ANOTHER.

* WELL, THE SOIL ON AND BESIDE THE ROAD WOULD, OF COURSE, BE UNTILLED AND PACKED DOWN HARD BY THE WALKING, WHICH PREVENTED ANY SEEDS THAT HAPPENED TO FALL ON IT FROM PENETRATING AND TAKING ROOT, FROM GERMINATING.

** AND BECAUSE THOSE SEEDS WERE EXPOSED AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE, THE BIRDS WOULD COME AND EAT THE SEEDS AS SOON AS THE FARMER GOT A SAFE DISTANCE DOWN THE PATH.

2. AND WHAT WAS NOT EATEN BY THE BIRDS **ACCORDING TO LUKE'S ACCOUNT OF THIS PARABLE "WAS TRAMPLED UNDER FOOT."**

* AND WITH THAT KIND OF SOIL BEFORE US, **LOOK AT THE 2'D KIND OF SOIL IN V. 6.**

B. READ V. 6.

A. NOW THE SECOND EXAMPLE OF GROUND ON WHICH SOME OF THE SEEDS FELL JESUS REFERS TO AS THE ROCKY SOIL.

* AND ROCKY SOIL DID NOT REFER TO SOIL WITH STONES IN IT, FOR A FARMER WHO CULTIVATED A FIELD WOULD REMOVE ALL THE STONES HE COULD BEFORE HE SOWED THE SEED.

** HOWEVER, IN MANY PLACES, THERE WAS AN UNDERLYING ROCK BED DEEP ENOUGH BELOW THE SURFACE TO AVOID BEING STRUCK BY THE PLOW.

*** **THUS THE PLANT'S ROOTS COULD NOT** PENETRATE THAT ROCK BED TO REACH THE WATER TABLE BENEATH IT.

**** THE RESULT. THE PLANT WOULD WITHER AWAY BECAUSE THE THIN LAYER OF TOPSOIL RETAINED INSUFFICIENT MOISTURE TO SURVIVE, SO IT DIED OFF AFTER LOOKING GOOD FOR A TIME. THIS IS THE ROCKY SOIL.

- NOW THE THIRD KIND OF SOIL IS FOUND IN V. 7. LOOK AT V. 7 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 7. NOW THORNS HERE ARE PRICKLY WEEDS. AND EVEN THE MOST DILIGENT AND CAREFUL PLOWING COULD NOT ALWAYS **REMOVE ALL OF THE WEED'S ROOTS.**

* HENCE, THE RESULT WAS A SOIL THAT LOOKED GOOD WHEN THE FARMER SOWED HIS SEED, BUT IN A SHORT TIME, THESE WEEDS GROW QUITE QUICKLY, TAKING THE NUTRIENTS FROM THE SOIL AND MOISTURE AND DO WHAT? CHOKES OFF THE GOOD PLANT FROM NUTRIENTS **AND MOISTURE. AND THAT'S THE THIRD SOIL.**

**** AND THAT'S THE THIRD KIND OF SOIL.** NOW THE FOURTH KIND IS FOUND IN V. 8. LOOK AT V. 8 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 8. NOW HERE WE SEE THE GOOD SOIL. THE SITUATION IS NOT ENTIRELY HOPELESS. AND THIS SOIL HAD NONE OF THE PROBLEMS OF THE OTHER 3, IT WAS FREE OF WEEDS, DEEP AND SOFT.

* AS A RESULT IT PRODUCED AN INCREDIBLE CROP. IN FACT, THE YIELD IS GREAT, A HUNDRED TIMES, A HUGE YIELD, ABUNDANCE, WAY BEYOND EXPECTATIONS.

** BUT NOTICE AT THE END OF V. 8, AFTER JESUS TALKS ABOUT THESE 4 KINDS OF SOIL, HE **CALLS OUT, HE CRIES OUT, "HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR."**

*** AND THAT STATEMENT, WHICH WAS A CHALLENGE, DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THOSE WHO WANTED TO HEAR AND UNDERSTAND HIS TEACHING AND THOSE WHO DID NOT. AND THOSE WHO WANTED TO WERE HIS DISCIPLES. LOOK AT V. 9 PLEASE.

E. READ V. 9.

A. NOW THE DISCIPLES CAME TO JESUS AND ASKED HIM A QUESTION. AND THE DISCIPLES HERE WOULD INCLUDE MORE THAN JUST THE TWELVE, BUT OTHER FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

*** FOR IN MARK'S PARALLEL PASSAGE OF THIS TEXT, IT SAYS IN MARK 4:10: "AND AS SOON AS HE (JESUS) WAS ALONE, HIS FOLLOWERS ALONG WITH THE TWELVE, BEGAN ASKING HIM ABOUT THE PARABLES."**

** SO THE TWELVE ALONG WITH SOME OTHER FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST COME TO HIM TO ASK THIS QUESTION.

*** THE QUESTION IS, "WHAT DOES THIS PARABLE MEAN?" AND THE ANSWER IS IN V. 10. LOOK AT V. 10 PLEASE.

F. READ V. 10.

A. NOW CHRIST'S RESPONSE WAS TO INFORM HIS FOLLOWERS OF THEIR PRIVILEGED POSITION AND THAT THEY WOULD RECEIVE SPECIAL GRACE TO UNDERSTAND THE MEANING OF THE PARABLES, TO KNOW THE "MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN".

* AND THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM WOULD BE EXPLAINED TO THE DISCIPLES IN THE PARABLES. BUT ONE WOULD HAVE TO KNOW THE KING TO UNDERSTAND THE PRINCIPLES OF THE KINGDOM.

** FOR THOSE WHO WERE SUBJECTS OF THE KING, HIS DISCIPLES, THE MYSTERIES IN PARABLES WOULD BE REVEALED, BUT FOR THOSE WHO REJECTED THE KING, FOR THOSE WHO WOULD NOT BOW TO HIS AUTHORITY, THE MYSTERIES WOULD REMAIN MYSTERIES AND WOULD NOT BE REVEALED BUT CONCEALED.

*** AND MYSTERIES IN SCRIPTURE REFER TO REVELATION OF SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY HIDDEN AND UNKNOWN THAT IS NOW REVEALED. A MYSTERY IS SOMETHING THAT WOULD HAVE REMAINED UNKNOWN HAD IT NOT BEEN REVEALED.

**** WELL, TRUTHS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN WOULD BE REVEALED TO THE DISCIPLES BUT CONCEALED TO THOSE WHO WOULD NOT TURN TO CHRIST.

1. AND NOTICE JESUS SAYS HERE IN V. 10 TO THE DISCIPLES, **"TO YOU IT HAS BEEN GRANTED, OR GIVEN", AND TO THE REST, "IT IS IN PARABLES." AND IN THE PARALLEL COMPANION TEXT IN MATTHEW 13:11 - "BUT TO THEM IT HAS NOT BEEN GRANTED."**

* AND THIS GREEK VERB **"BEEN GRANTED"** LIT. MEANS TO GIVE IN VARIOUS SENSES, TO SUPPLY, TO FURNISH WHAT IS NECESSARY, TO BESTOW A GIFT.

** AND TO THE DISCIPLES, IT WAS GIVEN THROUGH AN ACT OF PURE GRACE BY CHRIST THAT THEY WOULD UNDERSTAND THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM COMMUNICATED THROUGH THE PARABLES.

*** THIS WAS A GREAT PRIVILEGE. BUT TO THE MULTITUDES, THIS PRIVILEGE, THIS ACT OF PURE GRACE WAS NOT GIVEN. THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF **CHRIST'S KINGDOM, IT WAS REALITY THAT THEY** HAD NO CAPACITY IN THEIR PRESENT STATE OF DEPRAVITY TO UNDERSTAND.

**** FOR A MULTITUDE OF THESE PEOPLE HEARD JESUS TEACH AND SAW HIM PERFORM MIRACULOUS SIGNS AS EVIDENCE OF HIS DIVINE MESSIAHSHIP, BUT MOST OF THEM DID NOT RECOGNIZE HIM AS LORD AND RECEIVE HIM AS THEIR SAVIOR.

2. AND BELOVED THE TRAGEDY WAS THEY WERE EXPOSED TO GOD INCARNATE, AND YET THEY REJECTED HIM, EITHER BY DIRECT OPPOSITION OR BY INDIFFERENT NEGLECT.

* THEY SAID NO TO THE KING, AND BECAUSE THEY REFUSED TO RECEIVED THE DIVINE LIGHT THAT SHINED ON THEM, THEY DRIFTED DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO SPIRITUAL DARKNESS.

** AND AS JEWS, HAVING HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF **GOD'S PROMISES AND THE POSITION AS CHOSEN** SERVANTS OF JEHOVAH, NOW NOT ONLY WOULD THEY NOT RECEIVE THE KEYS TO UNDERSTAND KINGDOM TRUTH, BUT THEIR PRIVILEGES WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN AWAY.

*** AND THE REST OF VERSE 10 EXPLAINS THIS MORE CLEARLY, SO THAT "SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND."

**** IT IS TO SAY, THEY HAVE SEEN MY WORKS, BUT THEY HAVE REJECTED ME, THEY ARE BLIND SPIRITUALLY.

3. AND THEY HAVE HEARD MY WORDS BUT THEY ARE DEAF SPIRITUALLY. AND AGAIN, FOR I WANT THIS TO BE CLEAR, THE JEWS SAW THE MIRACLES BUT REFUSED TO ACKNOWLEDGE WHAT THEY SAW, THEY HEARD HIS TEACHINGS, BUT IGNORED WHAT JESUS SAID.

* THIS PARABLE AND OTHERS WERE A FORM OF JUDGMENT ON THESE PEOPLE FOR THEIR UNBELIEF. HUMAN HARDENING BECAUSE OF SIN WAS FOLLOWED WITH DIVINE HARDENING BECAUSE OF REJECTION. **CHRIST'S** PARABLES LEAD TO FURTHER HARDENING IN THESE PEOPLE AS A FORM OF JUDGMENT.

** NOW IN THE PARALLEL TEXT IN MATTHEW 13:12&13, MATTHEW RECORDS THAT JESUS ELABORATED ON THAT STATEMENT OF JUDGMENT BY QUOTING FROM ISAIAH 6:9&10 WHICH SAYS:

**V. 9 - HE SAID, "GO, AND TELL THIS PEOPLE:
'KEEP ON LISTENING, BUT DO NOT PERCEIVE;
KEEP ON LOOKING, BUT DO NOT UNDERSTAND.'**

V. 10 - **"RENDER THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE** INSENSITIVE, THEIR EARS DULL, AND THEIR EYES DIM, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS, AND **RETURN AND BE HEALED."**

4. NOW THE TRUTH IS BECAUSE THESE JEWS WILLINGLY HARDENED THEIR HEARTS AGAINST THE TRUTH, GOD JUDICIALLY HARDENED THEM, JUST AS HE DID WITH PHARAOH AND UNSAVED PEOPLE CANNOT ON THEIR OWN UNDERSTAND **SPIRITUAL TRUTH WITHOUT GOD'S DIVINE** INTERVENTION WITH GRACE. WE ARE BLIND AND DEAF SEEKING OUR OWN WILL AND WAY, **NOT THE LORD'S. THERE IS TOTAL INABILITY** IN OUR DEPRAVITY. GOD MUST QUICKEN, GRANT NEW BIRTH, RAISE US FROM THE DEAD, CALL US, OR WE WILL NOT SEEK HIS TRUTH OR SEE THE TRUTH.

* NOW THE EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE STARTS IN V. 11 FOR THE DISCIPLES. LOOK AT V. 11 PLEASE.

G. READ V. 11. NOW IN THIS PARABLE THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD. AND SPECIFICALLY IN THE CONTEXT OF LUKE 8, THE WORD OF GOD IS THE MESSAGE OF SALVATION, THE GOSPEL.

* AS PETER SAID IN I PETER 1:23&25 (QUOTE THEM).

** ALSO QUOTE ROMANS 10:17.

*** NOW THE WORD, THE GOSPEL MESSAGE IS THE SEED. AND NO ARTIFICIAL SYNTHETIC SEED CAN REPLACE THE DIVINE SEED NOR CAN SYNTHETIC SEED PRODUCE FRUIT, RESULTS.

**** THUS ANYONE ATTEMPTING TO ALTER THE **SEED OF GOD'S WORD, THE GOSPEL MESSAGE,** TO MAKE IT MORE PALATABLE OR MORE ACCEPTABLE AND LESS OFFENSIVE WILL ONLY RESULT IN FALSE CONVERSIONS, EMPTY PROFESSIONS OF FAITH.

- AND AS WE WILL SEE IN VERSE 12 TODAY AND VERSE 15 NEXT WEEK, THE SOIL REPRESENTS THE HEARTS AND THE 4 TYPES OF SOIL DESCRIBE THE DIFFERENT, THE VARIOUS CONDITIONS OF THE SOILS, THE HEARTS, OF THOSE WHO HEAR THE WORD, THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

* NOW WITH THAT SAID LOOK AT THE EXPLANATION FROM JESUS OF THE FIRST SOIL, OUR THIRD POINT TODAY, THE PRINCIPLE.

III. THE PRINCIPLE, (READ V. 12)

A. NOW THE HARD-PACKED SOIL BY THE WAYSIDE OR THE SIDE OF THE ROAD PICTURES A HARDENED, UNRESPONSIVE HEART. THEY **DON'T** UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGE BECAUSE THEIR HEART IS HARD, THE SEED CANNOT TAKE ROOT BECAUSE THE SOIL IS BEATEN DOWN WITH SIN.

* AND UNDERSTAND THE REASON HE OR SHE DOES NOT UNDERSTAND IS NOT DUE TO ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE SEED BUT TO THEIR OWN HARD-HEARTEDNESS. THE SOIL OF THEIR HEART HAS BECOME POUNDED DOWN AND HARD.

** HE OR SHE IS THE PERSON OFTEN REFERRED IN THE O.T. AS STIFF-NECKED.

*** AND BECAUSE THE SEED OF THE WORD MAKES NO PENETRATION, IT IS FULLY EXPOSED TO THE ENEMY OF THE SOUL, AND THE EVIL ONE WHICH IS SATAN COMES AND SNATCHES AWAY **WHAT HAS BEEN SOWN IN THE PERSON'S HEART.**

**** AND BELOVED, OUR LORD WARNS THAT THE HUMAN HEART CAN BE SO POUNDED AND BEATEN DOWN WITH THE TRAFFIC OF SIN THAT IT BECOMES COMPLETELY INSENSITIVE TO THE GOSPEL.

1. THIS IS THE HEART THAT KNOWS NO REPENTANCE, NO SORROW OVER SIN, NO GUILT, AND NO CONCERN FOR THE THINGS OF GOD.

* IT IS CARELESS, CALLOUS, INDIFFERENT, NEVER BROKEN UP OR SOFTENED BY CONVICTION OR SORROW FOR WRONGDOING.

** AND MANY PEOPLE HAVE HEARTS LIKE THAT. THEY ARE SHOWERED WITH SEED, BUT IT JUST LIES THERE. IT DOES NOT PENETRATE. AND IT DOES NOT STAY THERE VERY LONG UNTIL SATAN LIKE A BIRD COMES AND TAKES IT AWAY COMPLETELY.

*** AND SATAN WILL USE ALL KINDS OF MEANS TO SNATCH AWAY THE SEED THAT HAS BEEN SOWN, SO THAT THEY WILL NOT BELIEVE AND BE SAVED. **HE'LL USE FALSE TEACHERS WHO PROMOTE SPIRITUAL LIES AND CONTRADICT GOD'S TRUTH.**

****** HE'LL USE FEAR OF WHAT OTHER PEOPLE MIGHT THINK ABOUT A PERSON'S BECOMING A CHRISTIAN, HE'LL USE PRIDE TO BLIND PEOPLE TO THEIR SINFUL CONDITION AND NEED OF SALVATION.**

2. SATAN MAKES THEM BELIEVE THEY ARE REALLY NOT SO BAD, OR THAT IF THEY DO NEED IMPROVEMENT, THEY CAN IMPROVE THEMSELVES WITH ALL KINDS OF SELF-HELPS.

* BEYOND THOSE THINGS, SATAN USES DOUBT, PREJUDICE, STUBBORNNESS, PROCRASTINATION, LOVE OF THE WORLD, LOVE OF SIN AND EVERY COMBINATION OF THOSE **PLOYS TO HARDEN PEOPLE'S HEARTS.**

** AND WHAT A DANGEROUS POSITION TO BE IN THE POSITION OF THE UNRESPONSIVE HEART.

NOW AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY: (1) A FEW APPLICATIONS. NO. 1 ANY BELIEVER WHO **SOWS CHRIST'S WORD AND THE GOSPEL IS A SOWER OF SEED AND IS LIKE CHRIST, WHO IS THE PROTOTYPE OF ALL SOWERS.**

* AND ONE OF THE THINGS WE MUST REALIZE IS IN EVANGELISM, GOD DOES NOT CALL ON US TO CREATE OUR OWN SEED OR MESSAGE, HIS WORD IS THE ONLY GOOD SEED. SO THERE IS NO SUCH **THINGS AS EVANGELISM APART FROM GOD'S** WORD, QUOTE I PETER 1:23&25.

** **AND BELOVED, WE DON'T HAVE TO BE CLEVER** FARMERS OR SOWERS, BUT FAITHFUL SOWERS, LIBERALLY GETTING THE SEED OUT AND GOD WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT HE WILLS, QUOTE ISAIAH 55:11 AND HEBREWS 4:12, AND EPHESIANS 6:17.

*** SO LET US LIBERALLY SOW SEED. BANK ON THE SUFFICIENCY AND POWER OF SCRIPTURE. BUT ALSO LET US BE REMINDED THAT AS WE SOW IT, ONLY GOD GIVES THE INCREASE, QUOTE I CORINTHIANS 3:6&7 - **WE CAN'T MAKE IT** GROW.

**** AND MANY TIMES WE GET DISCOURAGED
WHEN PEOPLE DON'T RESPOND, BUT THAT IS
NOT OUR JOB!! SALVATION IS UP TO THE LORD
OF THE HARVEST.

(2) AND THE POINT OF THE PARABLE IS NOT
THAT THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE
SOWER OR HIS METHOD. NOR IS ANYTHING
WRONG WITH THE SEED. THE PROBLEM IS THE
COMPOSITION OF THE SOIL.

* AND THE SOIL IS A PICTURE OF THE HEART
AND ONLY THE LORD CAN OPEN THE HEART. WE
NEED TO FAITHFULLY SOW THE SEED.

** BUT LAST OF ALL. IF YOU HAVE HEARD THE
GOSPEL OVER AND OVER AND HAVE NOT
REPENTED, YOU ARE SPIRITUALLY WALKING ON
THIN ICE.

*** I WOULD CALL YOU TO REPENT TODAY AND
FOR YOU TO CRY OUT FOR MERCY FOR YOUR
SINS AND TURN TO JESUS CHRIST BEFORE YOUR
HEART GETS ANY HARDER.

**** AND YOU MIGHT BE THINKING, RAY, WHAT IF MY HEART IS ALREADY TOO HARD AND SATAN CONTINUALLY STEALS AWAY THE SEED?

(3) WELL, IF YOU SEE YOUR SIN, AND YOU DESIRE TO COME TO CHRIST, THEN COME, HE WILL SAVE YOU. QUOTE JOHN 6:37 AND QUOTE MATTHEW 11:28-30 AND THEN PRAY.