

Providence Reformed Baptist Church – Sunday, January 22, 2023

Sermon Series: The Gospel of the Kingdom – Matthew

Message 77. The Parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

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Introduction: Jesus begins speaking to the pressing crowds, and even His disciples in parables. He gets into a boat to have some room between Himself and the crowd. He sits and they stand while He talks to them. (Spurgeon Quote #1).

- I. Parables – vs. 1-3a
 - A. A Parable Is...
 1. “A parable is a story from real life or a real-life situation from which a moral or spiritual truth is drawn.” – James Boice
 2. Examples of parables: prodigal son, good Samaritan, wedding banquet, sheep and goats
 3. A parable is not a fable – a fable is not a real life situation, i.e. in Aesop’s fables animals and inanimate objects talk
 4. A parable is not an allegory
 - a. In an allegory each detail has meaning, i.e. *Pilgrim’s Progress*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*
 - b. If every detail of Jesus’ parables had specific meaning this overshadows the main truth of the story and if forced can also lead to confusing and even false doctrine
 5. Why did Jesus use parables? – vs. 10-15 – next week!
 - B. Matthew 13 Parables - These parables show the nature, origin, hindrances to, and victory of the spreading gospel and thereby the Kingdom of God
 1. Parable of the Sower
 2. Parable of the Wheat and Tares
 3. Parable of the Mustard Seed
 4. Parable of the Leaven
 5. Parable of the Hidden Treasure
 6. Parable of the Pearl of Great Price
 7. Parable of the Dragnet
- II. The Sower Sowed Seed – vs. 3b-8
 - A. The Sower
 - B. The Seed
 - C. The Ground
 1. The Wayside – hard surface, birds eat the seed
 2. The Stony, Shallow Places – no depth, no root, susceptible to heat
 3. In the Weeds – competing for water and sun – Spurgeon Quote #2
 4. Good Ground – yielded a crop, grew and produced fruit
- III. Listen! Attention! – vs. 9
- IV. The Parable Explained – vs. 18-23
 - A. The Sower – the Son of Man – Matt. 13:37
 - B. The Seed – The Word of the Kingdom/Word of God – Luke 8:11
 1. Some seed seemingly fails – Isaiah 5:1-2
 2. It isn’t the Seed, but the Soil – Isaiah 55:10-11
 - C. The Ground – the Hearers and Their Hearts
 1. Wayside – The Hard Heart – Ezekiel 36:26
 - a. Trampled by sin – Rom. 1:18-20
 - b. They hear the Word but do not understand it
 - c. Satan steals it away

2. Stony Places – The Shallow Heart
 - a. No depth or root
 - b. Derailed by difficulty – Matt. 10:22
 3. Weeds – The Strangled Heart – Spurgeon Quote #3
 - a. The Cares/Worries of the World and the Deceitfulness of Riches
 - 1) God and Mammon - Matt. 6:24
 - 2) Wealth - Matt. 19:23; Mark 10:25; Luke 18:23
 - b. Like the Prosperity Gospel – appealing to the hearers who give the Word a zealous reception because they think it is a means of gain – 1 Tim. 6:3-5
 - c. Looks like growth but it is unfruitful
 - d. Remember when it comes to good and evil
 - 1) Good does not influence evil to become good
 - 2) Evil corrupts the good – 1 Cor. 15:33
 - 3) Good exposes evil and drives it out – John 3:20; Eph. 5:11-13
 4. Good Soil – The Open Heart
 - a. Receives the gospel
 - 1) Hears, understands, and obeys the gospel
 - 2) Bears fruit
 - b. The Heart, prepared by the Vinedresser, will be open to the gospel – Luke 18:26-27
 - 1) Breaks up the hard ground
 - 2) Uproots the rocks and ploughs deep into the soil
 - 3) Pulls the Weeds and Prunes the Vine
 - c. The Role of the Holy Spirit
 - 1) What is required for understanding?
 - 2) What is required for depth?
 - 3) Who preserves us from the cares of the world?
 - 4) Who produces the fruit?
- V. Truths to Understand
- A. Only a portion of the preaching of the gospel produces fruit
 - B. The only evidence of genuine reception of the Word of God is spiritual fruit
 - C. The presence of fruit is the important thing, not the amount of fruit
 - D. The MAIN POINT – only an open heart receives the preaching of the gospel
 1. As He draw you, you will seek – John 6:44
 2. As He calls you, you will come – John 6:65
 3. When you come, He will not reject you – John 6:37

Quotes

Spurgeon #1 – “The teacher sat, and the people stood: we should have less sleeping in congregations if this arrangement still prevailed.”

Spurgeon #2 – “The native plants choked out the poor stranger. Watch out for the birds [wildlife], weather, and weeds.”

Spurgeon #3 – “Evil claims a monopoly of our nature.”

Cross References

Matthew 13:37

37 He answered and said to them: "He who sows the good seed is the Son of Man.

Luke 8:11

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Isaiah 5:1-2

5 Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes.

Isaiah 55:10-11

10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater, 11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.

Ezekiel 36:26

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

Romans 1:18-20

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,

Matthew 10:22

22 And you will be hated by all for My name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

Matthew 6:24

24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 19:23

23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Mark 10:25

25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

Luke 18:23

23 But when he heard this, he became very sorrowful, for he was very rich.

1 Timothy 6:3-5

3 If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.

1 Corinthians 15:33

33 Do not be deceived: "Evil company corrupts good habits."

John 3:20

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

Ephesians 5:11-13

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. 13 But all things that are exposed are made manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.

Luke 18:26-27

26 And those who heard it said, "Who then can be saved?" 27 But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."

John 6:44

44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:65

65 And He said, "Therefore I have said to you that no one can come to Me unless it has been granted to him by My Father."

John 6:37

37 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.