



PARABLES

EXPLORING THE LIFE-CHANGING STORIES OF JESUS

PARABLES - PART ONE - PASTOR BRAD HOWARD

MARCH 7TH, 2021

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Mark 4:33-34a NIV With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable.

Parable - an illustrative story, by which a familiar idea is cast beside an unfamiliar idea in such a way that the comparison helps people to better understand grasp the unfamiliar idea.

Para = beside.
Ballo = to cast or throw.

Luke 8:4-8 NLT One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear Him: 5 "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. 6 Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. 7 Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. 8 Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!" When He had said this, He called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."

Luke 8:11-12 NLT "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's word. The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.

Luke 8:13 NLT The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.

Luke 8:14 NLT The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

Luke 8:15 NLT And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

Luke 8:18 NKJV Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."



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WHAT YOU NEED TO DEVELOP YOUR SPIRITUAL SENSES

1. YOU NEED TO GET OFF THE BEATEN PATH AND SPEND DAILY TIME WITH GOD.

Mark 1:35 NIV Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

Matthew 6:6 NKJV But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Proverbs 14:12 NLT There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death.

"We need to hear the gospel every day, because we forget it every day." -Martin Luther

Psalms 119:11 NLT I have hidden Your word in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

2. YOU NEED TO GET PLANTED IN GOD'S HOUSE.

Psalms 92:13-14 NIV Their roots will be firm in the house of the LORD. They will grow strong and healthy in the courtyards of our God. When they get old, they will still bear fruit. Like young trees they will stay fresh and strong.

Hebrews 5:13-14 NASB For everyone who partakes only of milk is unacquainted with the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to distinguish between good and evil.

3. YOU NEED FREEDOM.

John 8:34-36 NKJV Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.



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Romans 8:5-8 NLT Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will. That's why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can never please God.

4. YOU NEED TO PREPARE YOUR HEART TO RECEIVE MORE FROM GOD.

Psalms 66:18 NLT If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened.

Psalms 51:10 ESV Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Revelation 3:20, 22 CEV Listen! I am standing and knocking at your door. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in ... If you have ears, listen to what the Spirit says ...

Romans 10:8-13 NKJV But what does it say? "THE WORD IS NEAR YOU, IN YOUR MOUTH AND IN YOUR HEART": that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD SHALL BE SAVED."