

The Gospel According to Luke- Part 3

SOWING SEED

PART 6

Success isn't guaranteed

READ LUKE 8:5-8

INTRODUCTION

This parable that Jesus gives is a powerful picture of what we see even today from various people who hear the Gospel. There is one "seed" that is spread out; the Word of God (vs. 11). That seed is propagated on different types of soil; hearts of men (vs. 12-15). Just as seed that is spread on good ground produces good fruit, the Word of God, when spread out to those who would hear it, produces a changed life. Seed that is spread to rocky ground and ground that is covered in weeds will be choked out. This is what happens to those who fight against the transformation that takes place when we are made new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

For that transformation to happen, Christ must work in us. There is some responsibility on our part too. James 1:22 exhorts us to be doers of the Word and not hearers only. This means action. Seed can take root in shallow ground and the plant will grow for a time. Eventually, the elements will beat up the plant for long enough that it gives up and dies. This happens to people who do nothing to increase their faith and just expect an easy life with no trials because they love Christ. It is not a bad thing to "let go and let God" but, we still have action that we are to take and that includes denying ourselves, taking up our cross and following Him. (Matthew 6:24)

Jesus explains to His disciples that sometimes seed grows into healthy, mature, fruit bearing plants and sometimes it dies on the wayside. There is responsibility on our part to allow Him to transform us by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:1-2) and also, we have the responsibility of spreading the Word of God for people to hear. It is not up to us to cause growth or to try and create a healthy plant. We are to spread the seed and God can cause that plant (person) to grow in the way that He sees fit. (1 Corinthians 3:6) This passage helps us to understand our purpose. We are to give God the glory by serving Him, being more like Christ, and spreading His Gospel to the lost.

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think Jesus uses the image of seed in this passage? Does verse 4 have anything to do with that?
2. Read verses 12-15. What type of “soil” were you? Have you ever seen someone be a different type? What was that like?
3. Read 2 Corinthians 5:17. What is Paul saying here? Why is it important that we are made into something completely new? Why couldn't we just be the same but with Jesus?
4. What do you think it means to be a doer of the Word? What are some ways that you have succeeded in that? What are some areas that need to improve? Why?
5. Is being transformed as Romans chapter 12 says optional? Why or why not? What does it look like, practically, to be transformed by the renewing of your mind?

WRAP UP

We have a tendency to control things in our life. We want to be able to live certain ways and that can cause us to start veering from the path. Sin can enter into the field and start to choke us out. We have to come to the understanding that we are to rely on the Word of God to guide us into being more like Christ so that we can spread His Word to others. It is a lifelong task of pulling weeds and replanting but, at the end of the day it is worth it because it gives God all the glory in our lives.