

The Connection

▶ June 28, 2020

Weekly Bible Verse: Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Mark 4:9 (NIV)

The Parable of the Sower - Listen Up

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:4-15. The day Jesus taught this parable many people had come from different places to hear Him teach. The crowds were surrounding Jesus. People had heard of all the wonderful miracles that Jesus had done and they also heard that He told very interesting stories. There were so many people gathered around Jesus that day that He got in a boat and pushed out into the water a little way out so that all the people on the shore could hear Him teach. Jesus began to tell this parable: There once was a farmer who went to his garden to plant seeds. He put his seeds in his sack that he wore around his shoulder. When he got to his garden he reached into his bag and began to scatter handfuls of seed on the ground. As he walked up and down the rows of his garden the seed scattered and fell to the ground. Some of the farmer's seed fell on the hard-packed pathway where many feet had walked before and the ground was so hard that the seed just lay on top of the dirt. Some of the farmer's seed fell on soil that had rocks underneath and some of his seed fell among some thorny plants. Some seed fell on rich, soft soil. The farmer finished scattering his seeds and he observed what happened to the seeds that he planted. Hungry birds that saw the seeds just lying on top of the ground where the farmer walked quickly snatched up the seeds that fell on the hard-packed pathway. The seeds that fell on the rocky ground with a little bit of soil grew up quickly. As they grew up



quickly there was no place for roots to grow for the seed so when the seed quickly sprouted the hot sun and lack of moisture caused the seed to wither and die. The seeds that fell among the thorny bushes began to grow right alongside them. The thorny bushes helped shade the young plants but as the thorny bushes grew bigger and bigger their roots took up more and more of the soil. The thorny bushes choked the life out of the young plants because they had no place for their roots to grow. The young plants were not able to grow any further and have any fruit for the farmer to pick. The seeds that landed on soft, fertile soil grew into little plants, and then bigger plants and then when it was time for the farmer to harvest he was able to get a very good crop from the plants. Jesus ended His parable by saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." Jesus' disciples looked at Him and said, "What does this parable mean?"

When Jesus was away

from the crowds He explained this parable to His disciples. Let's look and see what He told them that the Seed represented (Luke 8:11). (Luke 8:12) Sometimes when God sends out His Word, the devil comes and steals and devours God's Word so people won't understand and cannot be saved. (Luke 8:13) Sometimes God sends out His Word and the people who hear it get excited about His word. Because they don't grow deeper in their understanding of God and His ways when difficulty comes into their life they fall away from God and don't follow Him anymore. (Luke 8:14) Sometimes God sends out His Word and people listen to it but they don't allow His Word to control their lives. They let the cares of their life, the desire to be rich and the desire for other things choke out His Word in their life. (Luke 8:15) When God's Word is heard by people who listen and obey His Words every day, He causes them to grow stronger and stronger and as they serve Him others come to know Jesus which is called bearing fruit. The people who listen and obey God's Word bear much fruit for Him because they keep growing by hearing and obeying His Word.

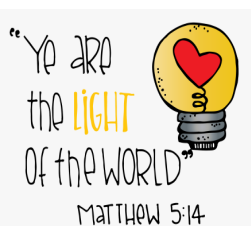


Let Your Light Shine

Jesus said "You are the light of the world." That seems to be an exciting reality and a daunting challenge, all at the same time. It also raises several questions:

- What does it mean to be the light of the world?
- Is our light shining? And, if so...How bright is it?

Sometimes we may wonder if our lights are bright enough for anyone to benefit from them. Whatever happens, we must not lose hope or give up. Remember, the stars in



the sky may seem tiny and very far away, but travelers depend on them to find their way. Just like the stars up in the sky, we don't always know who's watching us or using our light to guide them on their way. Let's stay as close as we can to Jesus, and trust Him for the results.

Ways to Let Your Light Shine

- Give your friends a Christian book to read.
- Lend a friend a Christian CD or DVD that you like.
- Pray with your friends.
- Treat others with kindness.
- Speak kind words.
- Send cards to missionary families, nursing home residents or military personnel.
- Wear clothing or jewelry that reflects your faith.
- Donate clothing or food to those in need.
- Create sidewalk art or messages to encourage others
- Smile.



Together

Together we can continue to make sure that children hear the stories of the Bible and of God's love and promises! Together let's keep doing kid's ministry at the time our kids need it most.

Additional Pages:

Coloring Page - Parable of the Sower

Word Search - Parable of the Sower

Crossword Puzzle - Parable of the Sower

Resources:

The Parable of the Farmer and the Seeds - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZEO_Ls2ERs

Visual Bible's Matthew Video Series - Parable of the Sower

Parable of the Sower - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rRVY&feature=related>



"I Wonder" questions for Today's Lesson

I wonder if the sower was surprised at the harvest?

I wonder what part surprised the sower most?

I wonder what the most important part of this story is?



- Where in the Bible would we read about Jesus teaching his disciples? (New Testament)
- What are the first four books of the New Testament? (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John)
- What do we call those first four books? (the Gospels)
- What does the word "Gospel" mean? (Good News). Jesus teaches us the good news.

a PARABLE

- is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
- is a story that helps people understand important lessons by using objects that the listeners know about.
- is just a story for those who don't know about Jesus - but for those who believe in Jesus there is a 'hidden' meaning deep inside the story!

