



Life Group Study Notes

"The Power of the Seed"

Dr. Rice Brooks - October 28, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

- Have you ever been on an airplane and not listened to the safety instructions? Why or why not?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

The truth is, most people do not listen to the safety instructions that are given on an airplane before take-off. Some people feel like the chances of them crashing are so small that there is no need to listen. Other people have simply heard it so many times before, they do not think it is important. Sadly, this is often how we respond to God's Word. We have heard it so many times, it's as if we've become inoculated to its power. So, while the power of the seed is the Word of God, the condition of our heart does matter.

Mark 4:1-9

Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. ²And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: ³"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.⁴And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.⁸And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."⁹ And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

Jesus goes on to tell the disciples that the seed represents the Word of God and the different soils represent the condition of our heart.

1. The soil along the path.

The seed that falls along the path does not last, but Satan comes immediately and takes it away. This represents those who are indifferent to the Word of God. It all goes in one ear and out the other.

2. The rocky soil.

The rocky soil represents those who receive the Word of God with joy, but because of other preoccupations, the Word of God cannot take root. These people are opportunistic. They receive the Word of God with joy as long as they see it benefits them, but once trials and tribulation comes they fall away.

3. The thorny soil.

The thorny soil represents those who eagerly receive the Word, but the cares of this world and the worldly desires of their heart choke it out. Instead of following God's Word, they follow their own desires.

4. The good soil

Lastly, the good soil represents a good heart. A person with a good heart receives the Word of God and lets it take root in her heart. He chooses to walk in obedience to the Word instead of following his own desires. This soil will bear much fruit.

Having a good heart is not synonymous with being a good person. For example, the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 would not have been considered a good woman in her time. But she had a good heart and when she heard the Word of God, she immediately accepted it and bore much fruit. We all want to be a person with a good heart so that the Word of God can bear much fruit in our lives. A good heart is a gift from God given in his grace. Therefore, we must pray and ask God for him to give us a new heart. Ezekiel 36:26 says, "And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Which of the different types of soil best represent the current state of your heart? Why? How do you think your heart can become like the good soil?
- Is the Word of God currently bearing fruit in your life? In what way? Are there any areas where it is not bearing fruit? How do you think these areas can become more fruitful?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Pray and ask God to give you a good heart so that His Word can take root and bear much fruit.
- Pray and ask God to show you any areas of your life that are not bearing fruit and pray for the strength to walk in obedience to His Word in this area.