

# Learning to Listen to God Jn 10:27

## The Dedicated Hearer Part 1

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct. 31*

**Mt. 13:3** *“He spake many things unto them in parables...”*

The word Parable comes from parabollo; “to cast near” (where someone can “grasp” it.)

This first parable in Mt. 13 is critical because Jesus interpreted each point for us and because it reveals the importance of a heart that’s **Receptive (Open) and Responsive (Obedient) to God.**

**The Sower is the messenger. Vs 3** *We’re called to be His messengers. (Mt. 28:18-20)*

*Failure to obey will bring eternal consequences. (Ezek. 3:18; 33:8; Ps. 24:11-12)*

**The Seed** *“is the Word of God”.* (Lk 8:11; Ps. 126:5,6)

**The Soil** represents the heart conditions of those who are exposed to God’s Word.

➤ **The Deceived Hearer** has a Closed heart that doesn’t allow God’s truth to penetrate. Vs 4,19

➤ **The Disappointed Hearer** has a Superficial faith that is easily discouraged. (vs: 20,21)

➤ **The Distracted hearer** has a Preoccupied (cluttered) mind and heart. Vs 7,22.

**What’s the real problem with the hard, shallow or cluttered soil (soul)?**

**They deny (defy) the whole purpose of planting....Harvesting the Fruit!**

**This is God’s goal for our lives. (Jn 15:1-16; Lk 13:6-9; Mt 21:19; Is. 5:1-7)**

**The Dedicated Hearer Mt. 13:8,23** *“he that received seed into the good ground...”*

**What makes the soil (soul) “good” in God’s eyes?**

**1. It’s willing to be Cultivated!**

**A. Cultivate is a verb (requires action) meaning:**

1) To prepare something for use!

2) Try to acquire, develop or pursue a quality, skill, or sentiment/attitude.

**In this parable, 75% of the seed produced no fruit! Same seed, same field, but different results!**

**The only variable was the condition of the soil!**

**Who’s responsible for the condition of the “soil” of our soul?**

**B. How to cultivate (Prepare) a soul.**

1) Plow up the “wayside” so the seed of truth can penetrate. (Jer. 4:3; Hos. 10:12)

*“Break up your fallow Ground ...”*

*Josh 1:8 “Thou shalt meditate there in...That thou mayest observe to do all that is written therein...”*

2) Dig up the stony soil to identify/remove the rocks (obstacles). (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

*“Casting down imagination, (logismos: human reasoning {Jer. 17:9}) and every thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought (No’ema: perception and purpose) to the obedience of Christ”*

3) Pull up the weeds/thorns that compete with the truth. (Heb. 12:1,2; 1 Jn 2:15,16; Col. 2:7,8)

*“Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, ... Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy (Love of worldly wisdom {see James 3:13-16}) and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments (principles) of the world, (1Jn 2:16) and not after Christ.”*

**C. This involves a Partnership. 1 Cor. 3:9** *“We are laborers together (synergos: working with/beside) with God; ye are God’s husbandry!” (Geōr’gion: farm/ garden!)*

**Farming is hard work!**

## 1) Our Part:

- a) **Preparation:** Hosea 10:12 *"break up your fallow ground:*  
Break up hard soil, (soul); Dig up rocks, (obstacles/weights); Pull up weeds. (worldliness)
- b) **Dedication** Hosea 10:12 *"sow to yourselves in righteousness"*  
2 Tim 2:15 *"Study (Spoudaz'ō: make diligent effort) to shew thyself approved unto God,*  
(Dok'imōs: current after assayal {testing}) *a workman (Erga'tēs: to toil and work) that*  
*needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing (Orthotome'ō: to make (plow) straight, dissect)*  
*the word of truth."*
- c) **Application:** Jms 1:22-25 *"Be doers of the word and not hearers only; Deceiving your own selves"*  
John 13:17 *"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them."* (also Luke 6:44-46)
- d) **Supplication:** Hos. 10:12 *"For it is time to seek the Lord"* We cannot be fruitful without God!  
John 15:4,5 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine;*  
*no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me,*  
*and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

## 2) God's Part

- a) **Instruction** Ps 32:8 *"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go:*  
*I will guide thee with mine eye."*
- b) **Direction** Pr. 3:5,6 *"...In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy steps."*
- c) **Inspiration.** Hos. 10:12 *"till He come and rain righteousness upon you."* Jn 15:5  
2 Tim 3:16-17 *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable ... That the man of God may*  
*be perfect, (Artios: complete) thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*

## Conclusion:

We can't do God's Part. God won't do our Part! That's why Jesus said in Mt. 13:9  
*"Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."* Akou'ō: to hear (understand) and harken! (OBEY/ apply!)  
¾ of the seed produced no fruit! Same seed, same field...  
The only variable was the condition of the soil!

Who determines the condition (cultivation/cooperation) of the heart/soul?  
That's why Jesus said in Mt. 13:9 *"Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."*

## Application:

- Some who hear Jesus' invitation will respond, and bring forth fruit. (Mt. 4:18-20; Mt. 9:9)
- Most will not. (Mt. 19:16-22; Mt. 27:22; John 19:15)

## What will you choose?

Will you purpose to partner with God to cultivate your soul to become more  
receptive and responsive to God's Truth? Ro. 12:1,2



"Lost and Found"  
By Greg Olsen

<https://sethadamsmith.com/2015/07/29/lost-and-found/>