

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’imos: 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/>