

Learning to Listen to God Jn 10:27

The Dedicated Hearer Part 2

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Nov. 7th

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.

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 Cultivated (prepared)! They’re willing to:

- Plow up the “wayside” so the seed of truth can penetrate. (Jer. 4:3; Hosea 10:12)
- Dig up the stony soil to identify/remove obstacles. (2 Cor.10:3-5)
- Pull up the “worldly weeds” that compete with the truth. (Heb. 12:1,2; 1Jn 2:15,16)

2. Has a **Cooperative Soul.** 1 Cor 3:9 *“We’re laborers together with God*

...ye are God’s husbandry” Mt. 11:29 *“take my yoke upon you...”* (also Phil. 2:13; 4:13)

Vs 23 *“he that received seed into the good (kalos: valuable) ground is he that:*

A. “hears the word.” (*akouō: hear/hearken*)

1) This implies that they recognize:

- a) Who is speaking to them. Jn 10:10;11;27a
- b) What he’s saying! Jn 10:27 b

B. “and Understands it” (*Syni’ēmi: “to put together”, apply*)

1) This implies that they Respond (*To God’s Word and Will*)!

James 2:26 *“For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”*

Heb 4:2 *“unto us was the gospel preached, as well as them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.”*

C. “which also bears fruit”

- 1) This is the whole point of planting!
- 2) Fruit requires a deeper connection (Commitment) than just leaves.
 - a) There are many fruitless “believers”, (found only 2x in NT. {Acts 5:14; 1 Tim. 4:12})
 - b) But no completely fruitless “disciples.” Mentioned 243 x in NT

Which is God Expecting/Inspecting?

D. “and brings forth, (fruit) Poie’ō: to do/make, commits (to maturity!) Jn 15:4-5

“and brings forth, (poie’o: fruit to maturity) some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Why does “good” ground bring forth different amounts of fruit?

Our Fruitfulness will Differ according to:

1) Our **ability** (**Faith** in) His Power and the degree of our **Partnership!**

Mt 25:14,15 *"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. To one he gave 5 talents, to another 2, & to another 1; to every man according to his several ability; (dynamis: power) and straightway took his journey."*

Eph 3:20 *"Now unto him that's able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"*

Phil. 4:13 *"I can do all things through Christ, which strengtheneth me."*

2 Cor 8:3-4 *"For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship (koinonia) of the ministering to the saints."*

2) Our intensity, (**Passion**) Phil 3:7-15 *"what things were gain to me, I count loss for Christ... I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. let as many as be perfect (teleios) be thus minded"* See also 1 Cor 9:24-27

3) Our Opportunity. (**Priority**) Mt. 6:33 *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God..."*

Col 1:17-18 *"he is before all things, by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: that in all things he might have the preeminence."* (Proteuo: first in rank and influence!

Gal. 6:9,10 *"let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, (Kairos: season) let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."*

The season of sowing and growing will soon pass! (Acts 24:24,25)

Conclusion:

Some day our season (opportunity) for Cultivating and Cooperating will end!

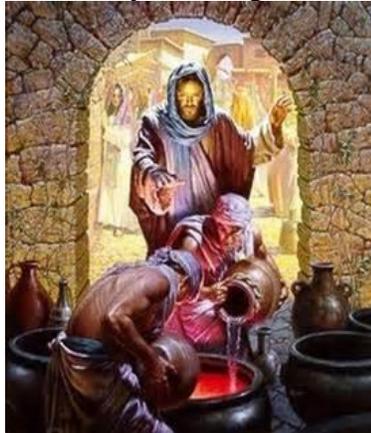
Jeremiah 8:20 *"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."*

Application:

Is the "soil" of your soul (heart) "Good" in God's eyes?

1) Will you cultivate (Prepare) your soul to receive God's Truth?

2) Will you cooperate with God's purposes and plan to develop Fruit in your life?



Jn 2:5 **"Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it."**

*"Only one life, yes only one, Soon will its fleeting hours be done;
Then, in 'that day' my Lord to meet, And stand before His Judgement seat;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.
Only one life, the still small voice, Gently pleads for a better choice.
Bidding me selfish aims to leave, And to God's holy will to cleave;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last.
Only one life, a few brief years, Each with its burdens, hopes, and fears;
Each with its claims I must fulfill, living for self or in His will;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past, Only what's done for Christ will last."
C.T. Studd*