

Learning to Listen to God (Jn 10:27)

"and He spake many things unto them in parables..." Matthew 13:3

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Oct 10th

In Mt 13 he shared 8 parables to help us grasp (understand) God's Kingdom. Hearing from God was so important that Jesus mentioned it by name 18 times in these stories. The first of these parables was so critical (Mk 4:13) that Jesus interpreted it for us. (Mt 13:18-23)

Matthew 13:18 *"Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower."*

- **The Sower (Messenger) Mt. 13:3** *"a sower went forth to sow"* (Plant)
- **The Seed (Message) Mt. 13:3,39** *"Is the word of God."* (See Lk 8:11)
- **The Soil (Vs 4-9; 18-23)** represents the condition (attitudes) of the hearts of the hearers and how these affect their response to the seed.

The "Wayside" represents those who've been Deceived or hardened so the seed can't really penetrate the soil (heart). (Mt. 13:4; 19)

The "shallow soil" represents the Disappointed (emotional) Hearers who have a shallow "Faith" vs 5,6, 20

Last week we focused on the Consequences of having a shallow faith.

This morning we'll focus on the Causes of a shallow faith.

Things may appear OK for a while, but there are Rocks (obstacles) just beneath the surface.

Some Rocks that block the roots of faith and resulting fruit.

1. **Religion** (Misplaced Faith) Ro 10:3 *"For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God."*
 - A. This clutters the "gate to God". Mt 7:7 *"strait (stenos: narrow, from obstacles standing close by) is the gate that leads to life... and few find it"*
 - Vs 15 *"beware of false prophets..."* vs 22 *"many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord..."*
 - Vs 23 *then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."*
2. **Rebellion** (Mutinous Pride)
 - A. Keeps us from genuine faith in God.
 - 1) Required for Salvation! (Eph. 2:8,9; Ro 5:1; Jn 5:39-40) *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. and ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."*
 - B. Keeps us from a deep Commitment to God!
 - 1) Which enables Sanctification (hagiaz'ō: purified, consecrated, committed!) 1Thes 4:3,4 *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honor"* (See also 2 Tim. 2:19-21)
3. **Relationships** (Multiple {Competing/Contradictory} Priorities)

Mt 10:37-38 *"He that loveth father or mother (son or daughter) more than me is not worthy of me: And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."* See also Luke 14:26-35

 - A. This is why God warns against "unequal yokes." (Amos 3:3; 2 Cor. 6:14-18)
 - 1) Samson and Delila. (Judges 16)
 - 2) Solomon and his pagan wives. (1 Kings 11:1-9)

4. (False) **Reasoning**. (Malignant **philosophies**)

A. Satan uses these to attack us! (2 Cor 10:3-5) *"The Weapons of our warfare ... are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;"*

B. This is why we need deep roots of truth! (Col 2:7-8) *"Rooted and built up... and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein... Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."*

Conclusion: Healthy Roots come before healthy Fruit.

Eph. 3:17-19 *"That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness (aka: Fruit) of God."*

Col. 2:7 *"Rooted (rhizo'ō: stable) and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught ..."*

Application: How to develop a deep, healthy faith.

1) Break up the bedrock. Hos. 10:12 *"...break up your fallow ground: for it's time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you."*

a) Remove the rocks. (2 Cor. 10:3-5)

b) Rearrange our priorities (Ps. 1; 5:1-3)

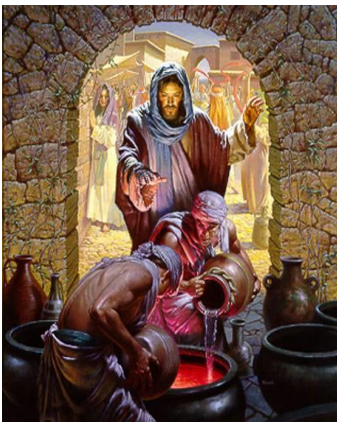
2) **Internalize** God's Word! Hos. 10:12 *"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy...break up your fallow ground: for it's time to seek the LORD"*

Ps 119:11 *"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."*

We remember what's important to us!

3) Focus on **Application**. What does God want from me! James 1:22-25

4) Joshua 1:8 *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein ... that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."*



*"Whatsoever he saith do it, though you may not understand;
Yield to him complete obedience, then you'll see his mighty hand.
Fill the pots with water, fill them to the brim;
He will honor all your trusting. Leave the miracle to him.
Bring to Christ your loaves and fishes, though they be but few and small.
He will use the weaker vessels, give to him your "little" all.
Do not ask how many thousands, can be fed with food so slim.
Listen to the master's blessing. Leave the Miracle to him.
Oh ye Christians learn the lesson; are you struggling all the way.
Quit your trying, change to trusting; Then you'll triumph every day.
Whatsoever he bid you do it, fill the pots up to the brim.*

But remember it's his battle- Leave the miracle to him." T.H. Allan

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith"

Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22