

# The Greatest Stories ever Told. Pt 4: Fruitful

*Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> AM*

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

The word Parable comes from 'parabole' which literally means: "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 cultivating a heart that's receptive and responsive to God.

- The Deceived Hearer has a hard heart that doesn't allow God's truth to penetrate. (13:4,19)
- The Disappointed Hearer has a Superficial faith that is easily discouraged. (Mt. 13:20,21)
- The Distracted hearer with 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 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 "Dutiful" Hearer Mt. 13:8,23 *"he that received seed into the good ground..."*

What makes the ground (soul) "good"?

## 1. It's been 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.

B. How to cultivate a soul.

- 1) Plow up the "wayside" so the seed of truth can penetrate.
- 2) Dig up the stony soil to identify/remove the rocks.
- 3) Pull up the weeds/thorns that compete with the truth.

C. These are all our responsibility! (Hosea 10:12)

- 1) This takes hard work! 2 Cor 10:4-5; 2 Tim. 2:15

## 2. They have a Cooperative Soul.

Vs 23 "he that received seed into the good (kalos) ground is he that:

A. *"hears the word."* Each soil (soul) type did this. (See Heb. 3:7,15; 4:7)

*"the Holy Ghost saith, today, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your heart."*

B. *"understands it."* Syni'emi: "to put together", apply

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"* Karpophore'ō: fertile, fruitful

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

Which is God Expecting/Inspecting?

D. *"and brings forth"* (fruit) Poie'ō: abides, commits (to maturity!) Jn 15:4-5

*"Abide in me... As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. .. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."*

**Conclusion:** 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, respond, and bring forth fruit.  
(Mt. 4:18-20; Mt. 9:9)
- Most will not. (Mt. 19:16-22; John 19:15)

## What will you choose?

1. Will you work to cultivate your soul to prepare for God's Truth?

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

1 Cor 3:9 *"we are laborers together* (synergos' co-workers) *with God: ye are God's husbandry"* (garden)

Jesus' first recorded miracles provides an important principle for cooperating with God.  
John 2:5 *"His mother saith unto the servants, Whatever he saith unto you, do it."*

"Whatever 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!

Whatever 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, thou 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 ye struggling all the way.  
Quit your trying, change to trusting; Then you'll triumph every day.  
Whatever 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. Allen



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

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