

Parable of The Sower #3

Feb. 4, 2007 (PM) - Pastor Ronnie Wolfe

Mt 13:22 *He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.*

Introduction

We have discussed two aspects of this parable already—the seed that fell by the wayside is that, when the word of preached, the Devil comes alone and snatches it away; and that which fell on stony ground is that, when the word is preached, people receive it quickly, but when persecution comes, they quickly run away as a hireling does when the wolves attack the flock.

In this message we will consider the that, when the word of preached, the seed falls among the thorns. Her are some simple thoughts concerning this part of the parable.

I. HEARETH THE WORD

- A. It is the job and privilege of every church in the world to preach the Gospel so that every man can hear it. Every local church of Jesus Christ has a commission to go unto the whole world and preach the Gospel, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, and teaching them to observe whatsoever the Lord commands the churches.
- B. As we have already noticed, the word of God is published every day around the world in one way or another.
- C. Ps 68:11 *The Lord gave the word: great [was] the company of those that published [it].*
- D. This is our job, and it is a wonderful privilege and opportunity that God has given us in this age of electronic media and many other types of media for us to publish the word of God.
- E. We have telephone, e-mail, regular mail, tracts, Bibles, personal witnessing, cards, letters, etc.
- F. Some of these are very easy to do. Let's get busy doing it. It is not our job to be sure that the seed, the word of God, falls on good grous; it is our job only to preach the word of God everywhere and to all people.
- G. These ones heard the word of God. They had the great opportunity to know the word of God to the saving of their souls.

II. THE CARE OF THE WORLD

- A. The Greek word for “care” is MERIMNA and means “to separate” or “to distribute.”
- B. The idea here is that, when people hear the Gospel, they do focus their attention on it for life; they rather spread their devotion between the word of God and the divisions of the world.
- C. The world of learning is divided into different learning sciences. Some are based upon true science and do not oppose the word of God, but much of education today is based upon humanism and is in direct opposition to the word of God.

- D. The world of science also has its divisions
1. Physical Science projects study the relationship of factors in fields such as physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, oceanography, mathematics and meteorology. [http://basef.ca/2000/divisions_physical_science.htm]
 2. Life Science projects include botany and zoology, as well as psychology and kinesiology. [http://basef.ca/2000/divisions_life_science.htm]
 3. Under social sciences, we teach psychology, sociology, philosophy, religion, criminal justice, childhood development, and more. [http://www.eocc.edu/divisions/soc_div.htm]
- E. In this parable we learn that people equate their religious conviction with their learning of physical, life and social sciences. They consider all of them on the same level; therefore, they distribution their allegiance from God and make the world the same as their religion.
- F. That is why we have such expressions as, “You can have your religion, but keep it in the walls of your church.” The care of the world seems to have won out over our conviction, dedication, devotion, and love for the Lord and His word.
- G. This distribution of our affections and devotion between the word of God and the world has watered down our religious fervor, and we do not have the conviction and strength of religion that we should have.
- H. This is the reason the world seems to be winning and the Christian influence seems to be losing.

III. THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES

- A. The Bible has so much to say about riches.
- B. Scriptures on Riches
1. 1 Kings 3:10-13 *And the speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 And God said unto him, Because thou hast asked this thing, and hast not asked for thyself long life; neither hast asked riches for thyself, nor hast asked the life of thine enemies; but hast asked for thyself understanding to discern judgment; 12 Behold, I have done according to thy words: lo, I have given thee a wise and an understanding heart; so that there was none like thee before thee, neither after thee shall any arise like unto thee. 13 And I have also given thee that which thou hast not asked, both riches, and honour: so that there shall not be any among the kings like unto thee all thy days.*
 2. Ps 37:16 *A little that a righteous man hath [is] better than the riches of many wicked.*
 3. Pr 11:28 *He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.*
 4. Pr 22:1 *A [good] name [is] rather to be chosen than great riches, [and] loving favour rather than silver and gold.*
 5. Pr 30:8 *Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:*
 6. Php 4:19 *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*
- C. Scriptures on Money
1. 1 Tim. 6:10 *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*
 2. Mic 3:11 *The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and*

the prophets thereof divine for money: yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, [Is] not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us.

D. Deceitfulness

1. Riches are deceitful, because riches entice a person to think that if only he could have riches, all of this problems would be over.
2. But you and I both know that money is not the answer for happiness. The Bible says in Ecccl. 10:19 ... *money answereth all [things]*, but that does not mean that it is the end of all strife and heartache.
3. If a person does not have the wisdom, understanding and ingenuity to get riches, he probably does not have the wisdom to keep riches if he gets it.
4. Some who have come into millions of dollars have quickly lost the money and have become borrowers rather than lenders.
5. This deceitfulness is the thorns in our parable. They choke those who make profession faith in the Lord; but when riches come along to entice, they are gone away from the Lord quickly, having a mouth for profession but not a heart for conviction.
6. Isa 29:13 *Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near [me] with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:*

IV. **CHOKES THE WORD**

- A. The Greek word for “choke” means “to press round or throng one so as almost to suffocate him.”
- B. Riches entice those who hear the word, and they are choked by the enticement of riches.
 1. They put their job before the Lord.
 2. They spend their money on themselves rather than giving to the work of the Lord.
 3. They have little or no sympathy for missionaries and other needs in the Lord’s work.
 4. They give only for convenience’s sake, and they do it so others can see, not out of love for the Lord and His work.
 5. They buy pretty things and leave their tithe in their checking accounts.
 6. They have been deceived by riches, not wealth and luxury as much as just misappropriating their income, keeping back the tithes and offerings that belong to the Lord.
 7. This will choke the word.

V. **BECOMETH UNFRUITFUL**

- A. John 15:16 *Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and [that] your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.*
- B. It is God’s will for believers that they bring forth fruit; but these are not truly born again, they are deceived by things of the world and by riches, and they will be unfruitful. What they do will come to nothing, though they may have much outward and seem to be fruitful to us.
- C. Their riches are worldly and not spiritual such as the riches of grace and the riches of the glory of God. Romans 9:23; 11:33; Eph. 1:7.

Conclusion

So what kind of hearer are you? Only you can tell. If you are not being faithful to the Lord, if you are not giving to the Lord, if you are not loving the Lord with your whole heart, then you must be born again.