

The Gospel of Jesus Christ Does Not Need To Be Defended

Look with me at – Matt 13: 1 & following.

The things we know are: It is the Son of Man who sows the “good seed”

The field here spoken of the entire world

While men were sleeping – along came the enemy and sowed “tares” among the good seed.

A tare looks just like wheat, yet it has no “seed” within it.

Now look at how Jesus describes the “ground” or the one who received the seed sown.

The first guy hears the word of the kingdom, but does not understand what he has heard. The results with this fellow are that the wicked one (Satan) comes along and snatches away what was sown in this guy’s heart.

A hearer, but unable to understand.

It is said of this man that he has received the word by the “wayside”. Stoney ground, no depth of soil and the birds came and ate the seed.

The next fellow receives the Word of God (seed) but there is no soil in which the seed can germinate. It is said of this fellow that he was excited after hearing the Word, receives it with “Joy” yet he has no “root” within himself and the result is that he endures only for a “little while”

Tribulation or persecution arise because of this Word and immediately he stumbles.

The next fellow actually receives the “seed” however the soil in which he received it is full of thorns. Those thorns are described as the cares of this world. Boy can we relate to this. There are so many things after our attention, trying to subvert what has been sown, causing us to be concerned over “riches” of this world (notice that He calls it the “deceitfulness” of riches) and before he knows it, circumstances “choke” out the fruitfulness of the word and it becomes unfruitful.

The last guy mentioned here received the “good” seed which has fallen on “good ground”. He hears the Word” and understands what he has heard and immediately there is fruit as a result of his hearing and receiving this Word.

The results of hearing the word, receiving the word and understand what he has received, and being “good ground” immediately begins to bring forth fruit from the seed sown.

All of this to say – What is the condition of our soil?

Jesus said that “some of these folks have a “dull heart”” unable to see with their eyes or hear with their ears, lest they understand’ He is quoting Isaiah the prophet and speaking directly to the Jews around Him.

To His disciples he tells them that they are not of this group. They have been given ears to hear, and eyes to see.

In every case, the seed is the same. The only other variable is the ground upon which the seed is sown. That which changes the soil are conditions in our lives that either benefit the growth of the seed, or hinder it because of other activities in our lives.

We do not know the condition of the ground in the person we are speaking to. We do however know that the “seed” changes not.

Spread it around beloved. You and I are not responsible for the condition of the ground. That remains His responsibility. We are just “seed throwers”

Occasionally we do well to ensure our own ground is “tilled, watered and available for all future growth. Ignoring all those voices that are pulling at our affections and attention doing their best to cause us to “get out of our lane” and lose our rewards.