

Sermon Title: Embracing the Call of the Good Soil

Introduction

Good afternoon, everyone. Today, we delve into one of Yahshuah's most illustrative parables, the Parable of the Sower. This parable, found in the Synoptic Gospels, provides profound insights into how the message of Elohim's Kingdom is received and what it truly means to nurture a fruitful spiritual life.

Text: Matthew 13:3-23

Matthew 13:3 (KJV) And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, *Behold, a sower went forth to sow;*

4 *And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:*

5 *Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:*

6 *And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.*

7 *And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:*

8 *But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.*

9 *Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

10 *And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?*

11 *He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.*

12 *For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.*

13 *Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.*

14 *And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:*

15 *For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

16 *But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.*

17 *For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.*

18 *Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.*

19 *When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by*

the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

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.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. The

Context of Our Hearts

The Sower sows the seed, which is the Word of Elohim. As we explore this parable, we are invited to ask ourselves a critical question: What type of soil am I? This isn't just about how we hear the Word, but how we receive and foster its growth in our lives.

1. The Path: Hearing Without Understanding

The seed on the path is quickly taken away. In our lives, this is akin to hearing the Word but not letting it sink in. Distractions, routine, or even hardness of heart can prevent us from truly engaging with the truth. We must ask, are we merely hearers of the Word, or are we letting it transform us?

Application:

- Strive to engage deeply with Scripture. Don't just read; meditate and seek to understand.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto Elohim, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

- Be mindful of the distractions that may pull your attention away from Elohim's voice.

Mt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of Elohim, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

2. The Rocky Ground: Joy Without Roots

Some receive the Word with joy, but their enthusiasm is short-lived. Like seeds on rocky ground, their faith withers under pressure because it lacks depth. Our faith must go deeper than emotional highs; it must be rooted in a committed relationship with Christ.

Application:

- Cultivate a daily discipline of prayer and Bible study. Let these practices deepen your roots in Christ.

James 1:2-4 (KJV)

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

Romans 5:3-4 (KJV)

"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope:"

John 15:4-5 (KJV)

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

Colossians 2:6-7 (KJV)

"As ye have therefore received Christ Yahshuah the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving."

- In times of peace, prepare for potential trials by building a strong community of faith for support.

Conclusion

These scriptures collectively teach that while initial joy in receiving the Gospel is good, true faith must develop deeper roots to withstand trials and produce lasting spiritual fruit. They call for perseverance, continual abiding in Christ, and growth in maturity as essential components of a resilient and enduring faith.

3. Among Thorns: Growth Choked by Life's Cares

The thorns represent the worries of life and the deceitfulness of wealth. How often do our spiritual lives get choked by our busyness, our careers, or our material pursuits? We must be vigilant to ensure that our pursuit of Christ is not stifled by lesser things.

Application:

- Regularly evaluate your priorities. Ensure Elohim remains at the center, not just one of many interests.

To support the concept of enduring faith that goes beyond initial emotional responses and withstands trials, using scriptures outside of Matthew provides a broader biblical perspective. Here are several passages from various parts of the New Testament that emphasize the need for deep, resilient faith:

1. Trials Producing Perseverance

- James 1:2-4 (KJV)

- "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."

This passage from James encourages believers to embrace trials as opportunities to develop steadfastness and maturity in their faith.

2. Abiding in Christ for Sustenance

- John 15:4-5 (KJV)

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

Yahshuah emphasizes the necessity of a continual, deep relationship with Him, likening it to branches that must remain connected to the vine to survive and bear fruit.

3. The Importance of a Firm Foundation

- Luke 6:47-49 (KJV)

- "Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built a house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built a house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

In Luke, Yahshuah teaches about the importance of building one's life on the solid foundation of His teachings, which ensures stability and endurance when challenges arise.

4. Encouragement to Continue in the Faith

- Colossians 1:23 (KJV)

- "If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;"

Paul exhorts the Colossians to remain steadfast in their faith, emphasizing the need to be "grounded and settled" to avoid being swayed by difficulties or false teachings.

5. Enduring Through Faith

- 1 Peter 1:6-7 (KJV)

- "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Yahshuah Christ;"

Peter addresses the trials that believers face, viewing them as tests that refine their faith, similar to the way gold is refined by fire.

Conclusion

These scriptures from different parts of the New Testament provide a comprehensive look at the importance of developing a faith that is not only joyful at the outset but also robust and enduring enough to withstand trials and temptations. They collectively teach the necessity of deep-rooted faith grounded in a continual relationship with Christ and adherence to His teachings.

- Practice generosity. It's one effective way to combat the thorns of materialism.

4. The Good Soil: Understanding and Fruitfulness

Finally, the good soil represents those who hear the Word, understand it, and produce a harvest. This is our call—to not only receive the Word but to let it bear fruit in our lives. This fruit isn't just personal spiritual growth but impacts our families, communities, and beyond.

Application:

- Look for ways to serve within your community. Let the fruit of the Spirit manifest in acts of kindness, justice, and mercy.

- Share your faith. Part of bearing fruit is spreading the seed of the Gospel to others.

To support the call to serve within one's community and to share the Gospel, numerous scriptures from the New Testament, outside of Matthew, offer clear directives and encouragement. These verses emphasize the importance of living out the fruits of the Spirit through acts of service, kindness, justice, mercy, and evangelism.

1. Serving and Demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit

- Galatians 5:22-23 (KJV)

- "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

- This passage highlights the characteristics that should define a believer's life, many of which are directly expressed through acts of service and compassion.

- Hebrews 13:16 (KJV)

- "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices Elohim is well pleased."

- Encourages believers not to neglect doing good and sharing with others, framing these actions as sacrifices that please Elohim.

- 1 Peter 4:10 (KJV)

- "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of Elohim."

- This verse instructs believers to use whatever gifts they have received to serve others, effectively managing Elohim's grace.

2. Sharing Your Faith

- Mark 16:15 (KJV)

- "And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

- Known as the Great Commission, this directive from Yahshuah emphasizes the importance of spreading the Gospel universally.

- Acts 1:8 (KJV)

- "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

- Encourages believers to be witnesses of Yahshuah Christ everywhere, spreading the message of the Gospel empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- 2 Timothy 4:5 (KJV)

- "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry."

- Paul instructs Timothy to carry out the work of an evangelist diligently, highlighting the ongoing commitment required to share faith effectively.

Conclusion

These scriptures collectively underscore the Christian call to active service and evangelism. Believers are encouraged to allow the fruits of the Spirit to manifest in their lives through practical acts of kindness, justice, and mercy. At the same time, they are instructed to actively share their faith, spreading the Gospel's transformative message to others. Such endeavors not only contribute to community building but also align with the biblical mandate to live out one's faith in word and deed.

Each of us has the potential to be good soil. It's not a static state but a daily choice to live in a way that honors Elohim and allows His Word to flourish in and through us. Let us commit to being not just fertile soil but abundant, productive land that bears fruit in every season of life.

Closing Prayer

Father, help us to be receptive to Your Word, to cultivate deep roots in You, and to bear fruit that glorifies Your name. May our lives reflect the beauty and abundance of Your Kingdom. In Yahshuah's name, Amen.

Let this message of the Parable of the Sower challenge and inspire you to examine and cultivate your spiritual life for Elohim's glory.