The Sower and The Soils

Ken Chapman · Matthew 13:1–23

INTRODUCTION

- This morning I'd like to talk to you about a parable, one of my favorite, if not my favorite parable, and it's a parable that coincidentally relates to our theme this year: Rooted and Built Up.
- There is the sower, there is the seed, and there's the soil.
- This morning I'd like for us to focus on those two other components that are more in our control. And that is the sower and the soils.

1 The Seed That Fell Along the Path

- The only thing that differs in the reaction to the word of God being preached is the heart of the individual listening.
- This illustrates the heart. It illustrates the mind, the closed mind of an individual, the one who refuses to hear and to understand.
- It could be the result of really mental arrogance. This idea that I have it all figured out.
- I don't want to accept the demands that God and the gospel is going to place upon me. So I will not listen.

2 Some Fell Upon Rocky Ground

- This illustrates the one who has a shallow faith. That there's no depth there.
- Without ever doing what Jesus demands of his followers, and that is to stop and count the cost.
- Someone has said it's not easy to be a Christian, but it's easy to start.
- The same sun that withered and burned up the plant with shallow or no roots was the same sun that strengthened and enhanced the plants that had that deep root system.

3 The Seed That Fell Among the Thorns

- Three out of these four all really ended in the same place. With no productive plant being grown.
- And this really illustrates the idea of the crowded life.
- The faith is there. But so are so many other things. And those things are crowding and choking our faith.
- He can sow sin or doubt, or he can just sow distractions into our lives.
- Just because a plant grows, success hasn't been achieved. Success is only achieved when it bears fruit.

4 Be the Good Soil

James 1:18–21

- A good listener is one who understands that message, who receives it into their heart, and holds firm to the word of God.

- Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath.
- Because God has given us the word of truth, so then be swift to hear God's word.
- Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

5 The Sower Who Went Forth to Sow

Romans 2:11; Ezekiel 2:3–5; 2 Corinthians 2:14–16

- One lesson we can learn from this parable, from this aspect of the parable, is that the sower's job was to sow the seed.
- The point of the parable is to teach how the word of God, when liberally sown, will do its job.
- My job is to be as liberal with it. And really as indiscriminate with it.
- Sometimes the gospel needs to be preached, even though it's going to be rejected, so that the gospel will have been preached.
- To the one, we're an aroma of death leading to death, and to the other, the aroma of life leading to life.
- Our purpose is just to sow the seed.

THE CHALLENGE

Which soil are you? What's the condition of your heart this morning? Is that good and honest heart, that heart that will listen to the word of God, receive it with meekness.

MY NOTES