

## **The seed, the ground, the growth**

### **Matthew 13:3-13**

Story of the sower

God wants us to grow. God plans for us to grow. Growth and enlargement are in the heart of God for man.

**'Be Fruitful and multiply'**. God gives us situations to help us grow. God turns droughts into fruitful fields so that we can grow. God brings rain into our lives for us to grow. God takes barren fields and makes them fruitful. God plans for us to grow. God blesses us for us to grow. Trails come our way for us to grow. God grows and expands our heart.

**The number one best place for a person to grow is in their heart.**

'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks'. God gives us seasons for us to speak to. Seasons are meant for growth and enlargement. He wants us to change the course of our worlds with our words. Words of Faith. Words of faith coming from a heart.

#### **THE CONSTANT**

Here in this passage we have a lesson on growth. It contains various locations. But one thing remains constant. **'Sewing the Seed'**. Some think the sowing the seed is our gifts, talents or personality but I believe that sowing the seed is 'our faith'. Everyone has the same seed. It remains the same. It is up to us to put it somewhere. We need to believe in something. We need to sow that seed of faith in our hearts.

God has given us a 'measure of faith'. That measure of faith lives inside of us in our hearts. Faith is what pleases God. Faith is not dependant on what we have but on what God has done for us.

**Our faith is what we believe in.**

The second thing mentioned here is the ground into which that seed is sown.

Some people believe that is primarily the location we live in, the church we attend, the people we hang with. While all of these things are important they pail into insignificance compared to **the number one place that is described as ground or soil. – A person's heart.**

The ground mentioned is a person's heart. It is not a specific place.

**Growth is not dependant on where u are but the state of your heart.**

**Fruitfulness is not dependant on the size of the vision but on the condition of the heart.**

**Heart condition is not dependant on what we do but on what Christ has done for us.**

The trouble with most people and growth is that they don't know what Christ has done for them. So they look outside of themselves for answers. They look at what others are doing either good or bad.

Growth, expansion, enlargement doesn't come from the outside it comes from the inside. **What's on the inside of us either limits, or expands our influence.**

### **1. 'Some fell on the wayside'.**

**The first thing that happens is that people sew wildly.** This can be either just putting our faith into small things or by the giving of your heart to more than one place. It's on the wayside. It's all over the place. We give a little here, a little there and even a little over there and we wonder why we are not being as fruitful. Today we have so many causes that are yelling at us for attention. Most of these are good. But that doesn't mean we should sew our heart wily nil lee all over the place.

**Another way of sewing by the wayside is to allow our emotions to rule our worlds.**

**This is when we make decisions based on our feelings not convictions.** I feel God is saying. I feel attracted to this or that. Feelings may be okay but often or not they lead us astray. We give of ourselves to different things all the time. We give emotionally. God never intended for us to live like this. God intended that we would sow our hearts into ground and bear fruit. Ever wondered why you don't seem to be fruitful. Maybe it's because you have a divided heart or are being led by your emotions too much and thus it's like casting seed to the wayside. It's all over the place.

### **SWAYED BY THE SPIRIT?**

Some people get swayed by emotion thinking it is the Holy Spirit speaking to them. Some even confuse the moving of the Holy Spirit with their emotions. They get swayed by alternate vision thinking that it is the answer. Sometimes they think God is speaking to them about changing friends, work, relationships or even churches when all the while he is trying to show them their heart needs changing. They get swayed by people either good or bad away from or towards churches. This is not good. **We have too many people wondering from church to church, relationship to relationship, work to work, always looking for something. When all the while God is doing it in their life.**

Oh the shame and pain of it.

**Growth comes from within. Not without.**

**So how do we stop sewing by the wayside?**

**Get wise counsel you trust.**

**Make a decisions and stick by it!**

**Sew by your convictions!**

**Find out what Christ has done for you!**

**As we know more of what God did for us in Christ we discover the changes in our heart. We become fruitful and ready for growth.**

As we read the word or study the word we uncover more of the fullness of the work of Christ. Our heart changes. Well, the real truth is that actually we see that our heart changes. We **discover that God has changed us.** You see 2 Cor 5:17 says if any man is in Christ he is a new creation behold all things have passed away all have become new.

A problem can be that some Christians think they have to change their personal world. God has already done it in Christ. You are already completely new in Christ. **The Christian walk is one of continual discovery of the work of God though Christ in our lives.** The Christian walk is about discovering that our hearts are actually good ground for God to work in. We discover that our heart is completely made new. The real problem is that we don't know who we are in Christ.

Sewing on the wayside is fraught with hazards.

**2. 'Some fell in stony places'. These are called 'STONES IN OUR HEART'**

Stones in your heart are issues that you have allowed to take root in your heart. They can start with a grudge, a misunderstanding, wrong perception, leading to an offence. Once an offence is in it hardens your heart to change. **This hardening is likened to a stone... something that is almost unmovable.**

Offence destroys growth and enlargement quickly. It doesn't take a big stone to destroy a harvest. Little stones do just fine. Keep your heart with all diligence the bible says. Don't keep a record of wrongs. That's the enemy's job.

**Stones can also be the issues of our heart. Those things which seem to continually crop up in our world.**

These issues or personality flaws, inherited weakness's, sins of the father exist but you can't always see them.

**NO MATTER WHAT THE STONE IS WE NORMALLY CANT SEE IT!**

You can't always see the stones in your life. But as you discover what Christ has done the stones seem to get smaller. The bigness of Christ and the nature of Christ actually over-shadows the stones. The enemy wants to remind us of those stones. He wants us to focus on them, but Christ's blood covers the stones in our life.

I am not asking you to go searching for stones!!!

**The only time you see the stones is when you go digging for them.**

God never intended for you to go digging for stones in your life. He sent His Son so that you would not have to pay the price for your sins and the stones in your life. **'The stone was rolled away'**. You don't need to look for the stone, the enemy does a good enough job of that. Today we have a proliferation of books and CD,s that show us how to fix our lives. They show us the failings of the human heart. They tell us we need to seek God to find our answers. They tell us to search our hearts and find the faults.

I personally am fed up with stuff like that because it often downgrades the work of God in our world. **I don't want to read something that points out my failures, or the failures of others.** I don't want to listen to something that points out that my heart is wicked. I already know that. I want to input into my mind the good things of God. The good things that Christ has done for me.

You don't need to be told you got problems. We all know that. **These materials actually build up a spirit of accusation against you.** They bind condemnation to your life. They pull you down. They emotionally drain you. They prize out the joy of your life and replace it with dissatisfaction. But the Stone has been rolled away by the power of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

If you are reading any such books stop. Accusation, condemnation are the works of the flesh. They are the tools of the enemy for destroying the soul of the Christians.

Jude 20 says to build yourself up. **By praying in the spirit = Praying in the spirit is praying according to the spirit of life.** Praying pondering about thinking on the works of Jesus in your life. Praying with faith in God because of what Jesus has done. This will change you more than anything. Find material that builds up in Christ.

Stones don't need digging up they need exposure to the all powerful light of Christ. If all we do is become stone hunters then we are no better off than people who don't know Christ and who seek out mentors. We are not stone hunters. We are more than conquerors. We are not problem seekers, we have the solution.

**THE STONE'S BEEN ROLLED AWAY!.**