

Prayer Requests & Announcements

- April has been experiencing health problems; Brenda and April will be traveling to Boise this week for test
- David & Kathrine are traveling back from Georgia this week
- The Christians in the Philippines.
- Save the Date: Bobby Graham will be holding a Gospel Meeting for us September 17-22, 2017.

For prayer requests, call or text Chad @ (208) 221-2587

Assignments

Today

Bible Study – Tom Mitchell
Song Leader – Tom Mitchell
Lord's Table – Chad Mitchell
Sermon – Ross Ward

Wednesday

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – Chad Mitchell
Invitation – Ross Ward

Next Sunday

Bible Study – Tom Mitchell
Song Leader – Chad Mitchell
Lord's Table – Ross Ward
Sermon – Ross Ward

Next Wednesday

Bible Study – Ross Ward
Song Leader – Tom Mitchell
Invitation – Ross Ward

Blackfoot church of Christ
370 North Shilling Ave.
Blackfoot Idaho, 83221

Meeting Times:

Sunday Morning Classes 10:00AM
Sunday Morning Worship 11:00AM
Wednesday Evening 7:30PM



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Of Soils & Seed

[BIBLETALK WITH JEFF ASHER MONDAY, JULY 31, 2017](#)

The parable of the Sower was regarded by our Lord as the key which unlocked the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven (Mark 4:13). From this parable we are able to learn basic truths concerning the nature of man and the process by which he is converted to Christ.

Take Heed Therefore How Ye Hear

In Luke's account of the parable of the Sower, the Lord closes his teaching with these words: "Take heed therefore how ye hear" (8:18). He puts the emphasis on the hearer. It is the character of the heart that determines whether or not the word of God will have any effect.

Throughout the parable this is evident. Jesus describes four kinds of soil, each of which represents a different character of heart. The wayside soil are they that allow the devil to enter their hearts and keep them from receiving the word (8:12). The stony soil are they which believe, but only endure for a little while because when temptation comes they are enticed to return to the world from which they came (8:13). The thorny soil are they that believe the word and make a good start, but after a while get caught up in "the cares of this world," pleasure and anxiety over things and fall away. However, the good ground are those hearts which believe and endure. They are honest and good hearts keeping the word and not falling away in times of trial and temptation (cf. Psalms 119:11; 1 Peter 1:5).

In each of these illustrations the success of the Kingdom was determined by the condition of the heart. We see that the Sower has no power over the soils into which he sows the seed. They, not he, determine whether or not there will be a harvest. Jesus attributes unbelief to the grossness of the heart which results in a willfully closed mind that makes conversion impossible (Matthew 13:13-15). However, the heart that is open, having "ears to hear" will be blessed (Matthew 13:9,16).

Take Heed What Ye Hear

However lest we misunderstand the nature of conversion, Jesus told another parable. In the parable of the Seed Jesus makes it clear that the establishment of the Kingdom of Heaven is not determined by the heart of man alone. It is not just a matter of honesty and sincerity (Mark 4:24-29). The existence of the Kingdom of Heaven is dependent upon the seed which is the word of God (Luke 8:11). Jesus says, "Take heed what you hear" (Mark 4:24).

Jesus said it is the seed which springs and grows up, but the earth which brings forth fruit of itself (Mark 4:27-28). Thus, the crop is determined by the seed, and the bounty is determined by the soil.

Jesus affirms that the power for conversion is in the word, the Gospel (Romans 1:16,17). The Word of God is not a "dead letter" but living and active having the power to discern our thoughts and the intentions of our hearts (Hebrews 4:12). The Word will reveal every man to himself as he truly is (James 1:22-25). The Word is spirit, that is, life (John 6:63-68) because it is the Work of God the Spirit (Romans 8:1-2).

However, there are other seeds which can and do find a place to sprout in the hearts of men. The Devil has his own seeds (1 John 4:1-4) and an army of sowers (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Peter 2:1-3). He knows that good soil will receive any seed. Therefore, he is constantly sowing, using deceptive means to spread his tares amidst the wheat (Matthew 13:25). So, while men sleep error spreads and hearts are corrupted.

Certified Seed

What can we do about the seeds of error? Just what any good sower would do make certain of the seed. John warned men that they must "try the spirits whether they are of God" (1 John 4:1).

While soil does not have the power to discriminate between the seeds choosing one over another, men do have the power to know and to choose between truth and error. The heart that is honest and good, willing to do only what is right "shall know of the doctrine" (John 7:17). We can and must understand the will of the Lord (John 8:32; Ephesians 3:4).

When truth has sprung up then the earth can bring forth her bounty. The growth will be gradual. Harvest does not come all at once. There will be storms and winds, drought and mildew. But the least of all the seeds will blossom into a great fruit bearing vine with patience (Luke 8:15).

Are Feelings Evidence of Salvation?

[BIBLETALK WITH JEFF ASHER·MONDAY, JULY 31, 2017](#)

"I know I'm saved because I feel it right here!" How many times have you heard or said that? Is it true that our feelings are evidence of the forgiveness of sins? The Bible tells us we can know we are saved (1 John 5:13). The question is: *How do we know we are saved?*

Feelings Can Mislead

Jacob *felt* that Joseph was dead (Genesis 37:24ff). He believed the false report of Joseph's brothers and "*rent his garment, and put sackcloth upon his loins, and mourned for his son many days ... and he said, ... I will go down to Sheol to my son mourning.*"

Saul of Tarsus *felt* that killing Christians was the right thing to do (Acts 26:9). Saul consented unto the death of Stephen (Acts 7:58; 22:20). He persecuted the church (Acts 8:3). He did it all with a clear conscience (Acts 23:1). However, Saul was later converted to Christ (Acts 9:6ff), and admitted that he was chief among sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

Apollos *felt* that John's baptism was the right one (Acts 18:25). He was "*fervent in the spirit*" when he preached (Acts 18:25). He taught "*boldly*" concerning Jesus Christ. However, he knew only John's baptism. It took Aquila & Priscilla helping him to better understand the truth (Acts 18:26).

Feelings Are Produced By Evidence, They Are Not Evidence

In New Testament cases of conversion the *feelings* relating to salvation were produced after the evidence of pardon was present.

The Pentecostians were *added to the church* and then "*did eat their meat with gladness*" (Acts 2:41,46). The Samaritans "*gave heed unto those things which Philip spake*" and then "*there was great joy in that city*" (Acts 8:6,8). The Ethiopian Nobleman was first "*baptized*" and then "*he went on his way rejoicing*" (Acts 8:38,39).

It was not until Paul was obedient to the "*heavenly vision*" (Acts 26:19) that he ended his fast of three days and was strengthened (Acts 9:6-19). At Antioch of Pisidia in Galatia many believed the gospel which they heard and were "*filled with joy*" (Acts 13:48,52). The Philippian jailer heard the gospel and was baptized with his whole house, then they *rejoiced* (Acts 16:34). At Thessalonica they believed the word which they received of Paul (Acts 17:4) becoming followers of them "*with joy*" (1 Thessalonians 1:6).

Nowhere in the Bible is there any indication that an alien sinner was assured of his redemption through his experience with his emotions.