



# Blackfoot

## Church of Christ

Published by Blackfoot Church of Christ  
Blackfoot, ID

Volume 7 Number 38

September 22, 2019

### Of Soils & Seeds

By Jeff Asher

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" (Luke 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 (Luke 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 (Luke 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).

## **Additional Comments by Ross Ward**

This article complements our lesson this morning. We see great power in the word of God and also in the heart that is receptive to it. Much fruit can be grown but it is not a one-person job, nor can it be done without the aid of God. The heart of man, the labor of the teacher(s), and the work of God, each has a place in the process, the most important of being the work of God. We will study these points and a few others to help us learn important lessons from Jesus’ teaching to his disciples.

**Prayer Requests & Announcements**

- Chad & Kass are in Las Vegas and will return this week
- Sylvia Ward, Ross’s Mom, remains in rehab
- Cameron Bauman brain tumor and radiation treatments
- Scott Boucher (Sparks NV) cancer treatment
- Keep April in your prayers as she deals with health issues
- The Christians in the Philippines

**For prayer requests, call or text**

Chad @ (208) 221-2587 or Ross @ (208) 680-6590

**Worship Assignments**

**Today**

**Song Leader** – Ray Mitchell

**Lord’s Table** – Tom Mitchell  
– David Porter

**Wednesday**

**Song Leader** – Ray Mitchell

**Invitation** – David Porter

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



[www.facebook.com @blackfootchurch](https://www.facebook.com/blackfootchurch)  
[www.blackfootchurch.com](http://www.blackfootchurch.com)