
The Power Of The Seed, Part II (Where are you sowing your seed?)

Faith And Finances, Part II

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Sermon: Faith And Finances, Part II: The Power Of The Seed, Part II (Where are you sowing your seed?)

Lesson Text

Mark 4:3–8 (KJV)³ Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: ⁴ And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. ⁵ And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: ⁶ But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. ⁸ And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

Introduction

During this series on Faith and Finances, we will talk about 4 things we are to do with our blessings so that we can facilitate God's covenant to prosper us:

- Bring our **Tithe**, Sow a **Seed**, Give an **Offering**, and Bless someone with a **Gift**.

We are now studying the 2nd of four things we must do with our money in order to walk in the covenant and promises of God's blessing (Tithe, Seed, Offering, and Gifts).

Last week we looked at the Law of Reciprocity (Seed, Time, and Harvest). We learned that we must have faith in our seed to sow it, faith in our time to wait on it, and faith in our harvest to reap it.

Let's now continue to look at another important factor concerning our seed, and that is the condition of the ground in which our seed is being sowed.

How many of you have ever been frustrated because you didn't see the return of your seed? Now sometimes it may simply be you didn't give it enough time. But other times it may have been because of the condition of the ground you sowed your seed into.

Our lesson text illustrates four types of Ground:

- Wayside Ground never produces because the ground is too hard.
- Stony Ground burns up the seed because the ground is too shallow.
- Thorny Ground chokes out the seed because the ground is too crowded.
- Good Ground multiplies the seed, because the ground is just right!

Now although this parable of Jesus is speaking metaphorically to the conditions of man's heart when the seed of God's Word is sown, we see the connection to the Law of Reciprocity (sowing and reaping) in the 6th Chapter of Matthew because our heart is connected to our treasure.

Matthew 6: ¹⁹ Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: ²⁰ But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: ²¹ For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Simply put, if you have a hard heart, your seed will end up in hard ground; stony heart, stony ground; thorny heart, thorny ground; and finally good heart, good ground!

When the ground (our heart) is not in the proper condition, it is our responsibility to cultivate (farm, develop, improve, and enrich) it so that the seed can multiply and produce much fruit.

Mark 4: ⁸ **And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.**

Series and Sermon: Faith And Finances, Part II: The Power Of The Seed, Part II (Where are you sowing your seed?)

(Wayside Ground, Stony Ground, Thorny Ground, Good Ground)

I. The Wayside Ground (Hard Heart)

Mark 4: ⁴ **And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.**

Wayside Ground represents a Hardened Heart, so hard that the Word/Seed cannot penetrate it. And when the heart is hard, our seeds end up on hard ground.

When the heart and ground is hard, the seed can't produce because it never takes root.

Mark 4: ¹⁵ **And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.**

Hearts become hardened when they are constantly walked on and abused!

Luke 8: ⁵ **A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.**

Psalms 41: ⁹ **Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up *his* heel against me.**

The Physical, Emotional, and Spiritual Abuse of betrayal, mistreatment, persecution, and disappointments can create bitter, broken, hard hearts!

The Wayside Ground (Hard Hearts) must be Broken Up with Praise and Worship!

Jeremiah 4: ³ **For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.**

We must break up the hard hearts of bitterness, the hard hearts of betrayal, the hard hearts of disappointment and depression with our Worship of the Lord, and Praise in His Sanctuary

Psalms 100: ⁴ **Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, *and* into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, *and* bless his name.**

Psalms 34: ¹ I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth. ² My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear *thereof*, and be glad. ³ O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

II. The Stony Ground (Shallow Heart)

Mark 4: ⁵ And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: ⁶ But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

The Stony Ground represents a Shallow Heart, so shallow that the Word/Seed cannot survive. As soon as it experiences the heat of persecution, the Word withers away!

Mark 4: ¹⁶ And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷ And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

A Shallow Heart can't maintain its fruit because it is too easily offended.

Shallow hearts have roots with no depth, saved but no sanctification, happiness but no joy, relationships but no love, talent but no character, wealth but no peace.

The Stony Ground (Shallow Hearts) must be Cleared Up with Sacrifice

Luke 9: ²³ And he said to *them* all, *If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.*

To clear up the stones of a shallow heart, we must deny our flesh through sacrifice.

Romans 8: ¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Romans 12: ¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ² And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

III. The Thorny Ground (Choked Heart)

Mark 4: ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

The Thorny Ground represents a Choked Heart; choked out to the point that the Word/Seed loses its ability to produce and thus becomes unfruitful.

Mark 4: ¹⁸ And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, ¹⁹ And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

A Choked Heart loses its fruit because there's too much of the wrong things or people around it.

Psalms 1: ¹ Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.

1 Timothy 6: ¹⁰ For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

The Thorny Ground (Choked Heart) must be Cleaned Up with Righteousness

Psalms 51: Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

To clean up the weeds and thorns that choke the Word from our hearts, we must clean it up with the righteousness of God's Word.

Psalms 1: ² But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

Psalms 119: ¹¹ Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

IV. The Good Ground (Fertile Heart)

Mark 4: ⁸ **And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.**

The Good Ground represents a Fertile Heart in which the Word/Seed is Multiplied.

Mark 4: ²⁰ **And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.**

When we Break Up our Wayside Hard Hearts, Clear Up our Stony Shallow Hearts, Clean Up our Thorny Choked Hearts, we end up with Good Fertile Hearts.

The Good Ground (Fertile Heart) produces a Great Harvest.

Psalms 1: ³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

John 15: ⁵ **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.**

Galatians 6: ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

John 15: ⁷ **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

The Power Of The Seed, Part II (Where are you sowing your seed?)

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Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Power Of The Seed, Part II (Where are you sowing your seed?))

Lesson Text

- Mark 4:3–8

Sermon Outline

- I. *The Wayside Ground (Hard Hearts)*
- II. *The Stony Ground (Shallow Hearts)*
- III. *The Thorny Ground (Choked Heart)*
- IV. *The Good Ground (Fertile Heart)*

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. If you could sow seeds of pure joy anywhere—where would it be?
2. If your personality were a garden, which three fruits or vegetables would be growing there—and what would each one reveal about your character?

II. Into The Bible. Jeremiah 4:3 reads: “For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.”

1. What is fallow ground?
2. What does it mean to sow among thorns?
3. How does sowing in good ground result in our receiving blessings?

III. Life Application

1. At the present time, what is the condition of your ground (your heart), i.e., hard, stony, thorny or good? What will you do to produce more fruit?
2. Last week’s message focused on the time factor connected to the seed and the harvest. How has the time factor affected the condition of your ground (your heart)?
3. What role has your relationships played in the condition of your ground (your heart)?