



Life Group Study Notes

The Power of the Seed

Dr. Rice Brooks – October 21, 2018

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- A CAT Scan is used to see inside the body. Why is that sometimes necessary?
- Most technology and appliances come with instructional manuals. How are they helpful?
- Have you ever needed a medical scan or an owner's manual? What was your experience?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

Mark 4:1-20 ESV *Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that "they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven."*

And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? The sower sows the word. And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away. And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

Jesus related the understanding of this parable to the understanding of all of the parables. It was paramount to their enlightenment and their blessed ability to have eyes to see and ears to hear. By grasping this teaching on the condition (the soil) of their hearts, they would have the key to the Word bearing fruit in their lives. Three ways the seed is prevented from growing:

1. When it is sown on hard ground and unable to get into the soil, Satan immediately steals it.
2. When it is sown on rocky ground, where there is no depth of soil, the heat of affliction and persecution scorches its shallow roots.
3. When it is sown on thorny ground, the cares and distractions of the world crowd it out.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Why are people not hearing the Word as often as they did in the generations before? How do you see evidence of this in our culture?
- Why do you believe this parable is critical to spiritual growth?
- Which of the three "grounds" resonates with you at this time?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- Thank God for His Word, which is "living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart." Hebrews 4:12 ESV
- Ask God to open the eyes of your heart and reveal what is crowding out the Word.
- Ask God to renew your hunger for the Word.