

Matthew 13

9 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Mt 13:1 on the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. (The sea of Tiberias or Galilee)

2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; (so that they could hear Him when He spoke) and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables (simple stories used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson, similitudes, and likeness), saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.

4 "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

5 "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

6 "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

7 "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

8 "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Mt 11:15; Mr 4:9)

- Why did Jesus say this?
- There are 2 types of hearers, those who let the word of God pass straight through their ears and those who truly listen and seek understanding from the word of God.

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them (the Pharisees and the Jews) in parables?"

11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven,

- The mysteries were things previously hidden but now revealed to the disciples.
- Some believe they were the mysteries of the future, of Christ's crucifixion and death and resurrection, and of the messianic kingdom.
- "Mysteries" are "secrets," namely, divine plans for the future that He reveals to His elect. Paul defined a mystery in Colossians 1:26 where he wrote, "the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations, but has now been manifested to His saints."

- The mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven were not things that were impossible to comprehend or to understand, but things not made known to them intentionally.
- Things meant to be known only by the initiated, the disciples.
- Some commentators think that to the disciples it was given to know these truths. It was important for them, as they were to carry the gospel around the globe.

...but to them it has not been given.

The Pharisees, and Jews generally, were not prepared for it, and would not have believed it, and therefore he purposely employed a kind of teaching which they did not understand.

12 "For whoever has, to him more will be given,

- For whoever has truth and understanding from God, he will be given more blessing.
...and he will have abundance;
- He will have over and above i.e. blessing in understanding, wisdom, truth and power from the Holy Spirit.
- ***Eph 4:11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, 15 but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head--Christ-- 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.***
12...*but whoever does not have* (this is in reference to the no believer), *even what he has will be taken away from him.* (The privilege of entering the kingdom of God will also be taken away).

13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive (discern, recognise, realise, understand);

15 For the hearts of this people (the Jews and Pharisees) **have grown dull** (hardened, waxed gross/fatty degeneration, callous, dense, close minded e.g. Judas).

- Judas had earthly and material expectations of position, wealth and power from the messiah which when not met he was disappointed.

Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest (otherwise or for fear) they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest (otherwise) they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.'

- 2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

16 "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

- But blessed are your spiritual eyes for they see the truth in the word of God. And your ears listen and obey. They that accepted the Lord were blessed.

17 "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand (consider it, or are hard hearted and not interested) it, then the wicked one (Satan) comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

20 "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

- These people are disciples who begin well, but fail to continue to follow the Lord faithfully. Whether they are saved or lost is beside the point. However, some expositors have restricted the meaning to either saved or lost disciples.

22 "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

- I read that there are 3 enemies of fruitfulness, the devil, the flesh and the world.
- Have you opened a door for the devil in your life? 1Pe 5:8 ***Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.***
- Are you indulging your flesh? ***Ro 7:18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find.***

19 For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice.

20 Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. Ro 7:21 I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good.

22 For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man.

23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

24 O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

- **Are you caught up with the ways of the world? 1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**
- **16 For all that is in the world--the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life--is not of the Father but is of the world.**
- **17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.**

23 "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Conclusion

- What is fruit? Everything done in true partnership with Christ is fruit.
- The Lord living His life through ours to yield what is eternal, is bearing fruit.
- **Joh 15:1 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.**
- Therefore, we must bear fruit.
- **Mt 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.**
2 "Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.