



DEVOTIONAL MESSAGE

The Four Types of Heart... By Juan

READ MATTHEW 13: 1 - 9; 18 - 23

- **T**he master of masters, Jesus Christ, he preached his message about the kingdom of God very often and he used to compare it to things well known to his listeners, example the kingdom of heaven is like ten virgins, or is like a grain of mustard, to yeast, like a hidden treasure, or a net and so on, prompting them to discover the truth and giving them a spiritual teaching.
- A parable is a short story taken from real life context where something known is compared to something unknown. Jesus spoke in parables to reveal the mysteries of a truth to his people and to hide it from others, such as the Pharisees. The main sower of the word was Christ, but everyone who gives God's message becomes a sower; the word of God is the seed and those who hear it are the ground; The parable of the sower makes us know what our spiritual condition is, that is, we discover what kind of ground we are each.
- The scene that describes this parable is on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus got on a boat to preach and there were many people listening to him; there were people in need of a miracle, others in need of food, others were true followers of a future king and others were adversaries of Jesus as the Pharisees wanted to know what he spoke to his disciples.

⇒ **THE FOUR TYPES OF GROUND/SOIL/HEART**

- **The seed sown fell along the road and the birds ate it. (V4; V19).**
- Naturally, when the seed is sown next to or near the road, the birds eat the seed. These are the people who hear the message of the kingdom of God, but do not understand it and not because they aren't able to but because they don't want to, then comes the evil, represented by the birds, and takes the word from their hearts; this seed never sprang up. Man does not understand the word of God due to the hardness of his heart; therefore, it doesn't penetrate his heart and there will be no fruit of repentance. The work of the sower is sabotaged by the enemy. The sower always uses the best seed, best quality; so is the word of God, it is like gold refined seven times in earth oven. *Ephesians 4:17-18*
- **The seed fell in stony places, where there was not much earth, and it sprouted soon, for there was no depth of earth. (V5,6; V20,21).**
- This seed's roots were not deep enough to subtract the nutrients and water needed to grow and bear fruit. These are the people who receive the word with joy but without genuine conviction, what is in them is only emotion. When the enemy brings upon them the affliction, persecution, problems, they immediately stumble because they are unwilling to endure the slightest resistance against the enemy. *James 4:7*

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WEEKLY EVENTS/NOTICES

Week 36

- ***The seed that fell among thorns, the spines grew and drowned it (V7; V22)***
- **When a plant is born among thorns, it's never fruitful because it's much stronger and resistant to any pest or disease than food plants and they are completely harmful plants for any type of cultivation.**
- This third category of ground upon which the word of the kingdom fell refers to people who hear the word of God but who the cares of this world, the deception of riches causes the seed to be fruitless. *Matthew 6:25*
- Wealth makes man self-sufficient, proud, prepotent, no need God when riches take the first place in our hearts. *Matthew 6:19*
- ***The seed fell into good soil and bore fruit. (V8; V23)***
- We have seen three types of ground on which the seed falls, but unfortunately none could make the seed bear fruit, in the end they all died but the fourth is GOOD ground, where the seed to grows and gives abundant fruit.
- The word of God says that the seed that fell into good soil bore fruit, at one hundred, sixty and thirty by one. These people have a receptive heart to the word of God, they are born again, new creatures, they love God, Christ is the center of their lives, they are saved people yet the fruit they give is in different proportions - 100, 60 and 30. *John 15:1-6.*
- The four types of ground or soil represent the different answers we can get from people when sharing God's message, some people are hardened, others are superficial, others have too many concerns that distract them, and others are receptive to word of God but the main question is: how is the word of God rooted in your life? What type of ground/soil/heart are you?

Events /Notices

▶ this weekend begin on *Saturday 7th Sept @ 7.30pm* with Dan Malan from Bournemouth Christian Church. Dan will also share on Sunday morning at main meeting. (Due to **issue with visas Marc and Mirela from CTM cannot attend this weekend**)

▶ more involved in church and outreach ministries are invited to attend a special meeting on *Sunday evening at 7.00pm* in the company of Dan Malan from the Bournemouth Church.

▶ will commence on *Sunday 22nd Sept @ 7pm*. If Wed is not your day, maybe Sunday, Monday or Tuesday could work!!!

▶ is scheduled for *Saturday 28th September* in Academy Plaza hotel. More info to follow. ■