

THE GARDEN OF THE HEART, LUKE 8:4-15

I. THE HEART IS LIKE A GARDEN

DIFFERENT KINDS OF SOILS REPRESENT DIFFERENT KINDS OF HEARTS

1. THE HARD GROUND — BY THE WAY SIDE, BY THE SIDE OF THE WAY.

2. THE ROCKY GROUND — WITH A SLIGHT COVERING OF SOIL.

3. THE THORNY GROUND — CHOKED BY THORNS

4. THE GOOD GROUND.

II. THE GOSPEL IS LIKE GOOD SEED

1. "THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD." v.11

A. IT COMES FROM GOD.

B. IT TELLS OF GOD

2. THE SIMILARITY BETWEEN THE SEED AND THE WORD LIES ESPECIALLY IN THE VITAL POWER WHICH IT SECRETLY CONTAINS

III. THE FAILURE OF FRUITLESSNESS

1. FAILURE TO RESIST THE DEVIL.

A. THEY HAVE HEARD ONLY — NOT BELIEVED OR BEEN SAVED. v.12

B. EVIDENCE OF PERSONAL DEVIL

2. FAILURE TO PROVIDE ROOTAGE FOR THE WORD.

A. THEIR PROFESSION TO RECEIVE THE WORD WAS SUPERFICIAL, AS THEIR ROCKY HEART WAS COVERED ONLY BY A SLIGHT COVERING OF SOIL.

B. NO MOISTURE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT'S REGENERATION.

C. EMOTIONALISM IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR REALITY — "WITH JOY". v.13

D. PERSECUTION AND EXTERNAL SUFFERING WILL REVEAL THEIR TRUE CONDITION.

3. FAILURE TO EMPTY THE HEART OF HINDRANCES.

A. THE THORNS IDENTIFIED. v.14

(1). CARES

(2). RICHES

(3). PLEASURES OF (THIS) LIFE.

B. MATT. AND MARK IMPLY THAT THE THORNS WERE NOT VISABLE WHEN THE GOOD SEED WAS SOWN IN THE MIDST OF THEM.

C. THE NATURE OF THE CHOKING PROCESS.

(1). THIS CHOKING IS NOT A SUDDEN PROCESS, LIKE THE TRAMPLING AND DEVOURING.

(2). IT IS NOT A RAPID PROCESS LIKE THE WITHERING.

(3). IT IS A GRADUAL PROCESS AND TAKES TIME.

AS ONE GOES ON HIS WAY THROUGH LIFE THE CHOKING OF THE GOOD GROWTH TAKES PLACE.

IV. THE SUCCESSFUL HARVEST

1. AN HONEST AND GOOD HEART

- A. GENUINE SORROW FOR SIN.
- B. EVIDENT REPENTANCE FROM SIN
- C. PERSONAL ACCEPTANCE OF CHRIST
- D. SINCERE PROFESSION OF FAITH

2. NOT MERELY HEARING THE WORD, BUT HOLDING IT FAST

A. 1 COR. 11:2, "I PRAISE YOU THAT YE HOLD FAST THE TRADITIONS, EVEN AS I DELIVERED THEM TO YOU."

3. STEADFASTNESS, ENDURANCE, PERSEVERANCE IS NECESSARY.

- A. THIS IS WHAT IS MEANT BY "PATIENCE"
- B. THOSE WHO HAVE REALLY HAD A GENUINE EXPERIENCE OF SALVATION WILL PERSEVERE TO THE END.

4. GOD'S WILL IS FOR EACH CHILD OF HIS TO BEAR FRUIT.

- A. IF THE GARDEN OF THE HEART HAS THE RIGHT SOIL, WHERE THE RIGHT GOSPEL SEED IS PLANTED, UNDER THE RIGHT SPIRITUAL CONDITIONS, FRUIT MUST COME.

B. PROPER FRUIT IS

- (1). CHRISTLIKE CHARACTER WITHIN
- (2). WINNING SOULS WITHOUT

*the mere receiving of the word is not enough;
everything depends upon how it is received,
and how it is retained.*