

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (1 Cor. 1.18).

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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The Enemy Cometh to Steal, Kill, and Destroy

Pou have just heard the Word of God, and it has touched your heart.

There is a parable given to us by our Lord that speaks profoundly of the condition in which you might find yourself upon hearing the Word – and of the devices that Satan uses to try to defeat you. It is the “Parable of the Sower.”

Luk 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.**

Luk 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

Many who hear the Word of the Lord allow it to fall by wayside rather than into a heart prepared to receive it. Satan’s voice comes endeavoring to take away what you have just heard. Let the Word not fall on the periphery of your heart; the Word which falls on top of the ground does not make a lasting impression and **will be** snatched easily out of your heart by Satan. He might say, “Those words mean nothing. It was just your imagination. Do not take it seriously. Forget about it.” These words are Satan’s “fowls of the air” that try to take from you the Word of God that you have read or heard. The devil comes to destroy that which you have been given: the message of salvation through Jesus Christ Who died on the Cross of Calvary for your sins that you may be forgiven, that you can be saved and have a new life in Christ Jesus – now and forevermore.

Do **not** listen to any voice but the Lord God Almighty in Christ Jesus. Hold on to the Word of God that it might take root in the soil of your heart and **NOT** fall by the wayside and be devoured by the enemy.

Repent of your sins and ask Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel), to come into your heart and life to be your Savior and Lord. Now, if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, what next? How do you begin this walk with the Lord? Begin spending time in prayer and in reading God’s Word, the Holy Bible.

We must read the Bible, follow God’s commands for living a godly life, and fall in love with Jesus, walking with Him moment by moment in His holiness.

The decision is **your** decision: listening to Satan and the world **or** staying in the Word of the Lord, the Holy Bible, that you might know the voice of the Lord God. The Word has fallen on the good soil of your heart, taking root with strength to produce fruit. Nourish it with prayer, spending time in the Lord’s presence and in His Word.

Living for Christ Jesus is not easy, but there is joy and peace. You must be reading the Holy Bible daily, even if you read just one verse from Psalms; read it several times seeking what the Lord is speaking to your heart. The Bible is a love letter written with the **Blood** of Jesus, the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world. Walk on in Christ Jesus Who loves you so very much. He stretched out his arms on the Cross of Calvary and died for you and for me. But, praise be to the Lord and Savior, He rose victoriously over sin, hell, and the grave. Walk on in Him. Walk with Him all the way. Jesus said, “**...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly**” (Jn 10.10b)

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

You may ask, "What part does prayer and His Word have in a new life with Jesus?" This is God's method of strengthening you and instructing you in living a godly life – and in helping you come to *really* know Jesus. It is vital that you spend time with Jesus in prayer and in reading His Word, the Holy Bible, every day.

Luk 8:6 **And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.**

Luk 8:13 They on the rock [*are they*], which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

The seed, the Word of the Lord, must take root in your heart. Yet, it cannot take root if your heart remains hard and if, in time of temptations, you choose to continue in sin as you did before repenting of your sins and asking Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior. It is very clear that verse 13 addresses those who knew they had received the Lord, knew they were forgiven, and had great joy; but, due to the hardness of their hearts, the Word had put down no roots in their hearts.

Keeping the soil of our hearts "tilled" and conditioned for growth is vital for our survival and growth as a Christian. As you read the Bible, do so with a prayerful heart. The Word upon which we must feast daily must be "planted" deeply, held onto, so that it may put down roots, grow, and increase. Stay out of the enemy's territory by seeking the Lord to cleanse your heart, and prepare the soil of your heart for the Word of the Lord to take root in you.

Until the Word is rooted and growing, one lacks strength to overcome the temptations of the enemy. Seek the Lord that the enemy, that no one, can take from you that Word which you received from the Lord. The Word, rooted deeply within, is strength against Satan's temptations.

The decision is **your** decision – to continue walking in sin **or** to walk with strength in Christ Jesus as He directs your life as you read the Holy Bible.

Now, you have made your decision to walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. Following is another snare Satan sets in your path – in his effort to "steal, kill, and destroy" those who choose to serve the Lord Jesus Christ:

Luk 8:7 **And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.**

Luk 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of [*this*] life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Many people have accepted Jesus as Savior, have allowed His Word to take root and begin to grow. They want to live for Jesus; they want to serve Him – but fail to do so.

Satan is sure to magnify the cares of life and occupy your mind with worry; your strength in the Lord wanes, and the riches and pleasures of life absorb your attention. Satan will be sure to plant these thorns at the inception of one's life with Jesus for the purpose of choking out the Word of the Lord. One must guard against this attack of Satan, draw away from these temptations, spending more time in prayer, worship, and reading the Bible – more time in the presence of Jesus, receiving strength from him.

Again, the decision is **yours**: worldly pleasures and lifestyle **or** Christ Jesus.

Summary: The three scenarios in this parable that we have just discussed are Satan's attempts to "steal, kill, and destroy" (Jn 10.10a), to lead us away from Jesus Christ. We must guard against Satan's snares.

We must let the seed fall into our hearts that have been prepared to receive it and conditioned to allow it, the seed, the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ, to grow – instead of 1) falling by the wayside, 2) falling on the rock where there is no moisture for the root to grow (hard heart), and 3) falling among the thorns, the cares and riches of this life. The condition of the heart makes the difference.

Luk 8:8 **And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.**

Luk 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep [*it*], and bring forth fruit with patience.

I want my heart to be good ground as in verses 8 and 15, and I believe you do also. However, it takes a walk with the Lord daily, making moment-by-moment decisions to follow the Lord, as the enemy will come against you every moment he can, endeavoring to wear you down until he can lead you away from the Lord. Know that the enemy will not ask you to cross the chasm. He will ask you to take baby steps that seem insignificant – but lead away from the Lord. He will entice you, tell you that God understands if you do not follow Him in every way. He will discourage you as you live for the Lord trying to get you to return to your old ways. He will whisper things in your ears and endeavor to distract you from living a godly life by telling you a godly life is enough.

Take notice that the disciples lived for the Lord God in Christ Jesus, their lives totally submitted to the Lord because they loved Him and put Him first in their lives. They understood what it is to live for Jesus all the way, every day, and at all times – even unto death. They gave their lives for Him and the Gospel; they had such love and joy and peace – that the world cannot give. They walked in the strength and love of the Lord Jesus Christ; the Lord used them mightily, and a world was changed for the glory of the Lord.

There is a difference between a goodly life and a godly life. A goodly life looks good and meets the standards of society – accepted by the world (and Satan) – but it is not a godly life; it is **NOT** acceptable to the Lord Jesus Christ.