

Jesus was very popular. And why not? When had there ever been anyone like Him? He healed every kind of disease, He cast out demons, he made the blind see, the lame walk, the deaf hear and the dead live again. But as His popularity increased, so did the opposition against Him. There will always be the naysayers....

- **And no one opposed Jesus more than the Pharisees. The Pharisees were a strict religious sect that was based on separation. In fact, that is the meaning of their name, to separate. There were about 6000 of them spread throughout the country.....They were teachers in the synagogues and appointed themselves guardians of the proper observance of the law. They had great influence and even the Roman rulers did not want to antagonize them. . And they felt that they reflected accurately God's attitude towards sinners. By "sinners", of course, they meant tax collectors, prostitutes, thieves and murderers.**

They had for many years been in the driver's seat. In their thinking, God hated sinners and withdrew... ..now their place was threatened Since Christ welcomed sinners and even ate with them the Pharisees generally concluded He could not be from God.

After the meal with the Pharisee and other religious leaders in chapter 7

Who were disgusted by his reaction of a known immoral woman touching him and then the blasphemy of him assuming he could forgive her many sins...the opposition continued to grow in intensity

- **Jesus allowed a sin filled woman to touch him...that should never happen**

NLT Luke 7:38 Then she knelt behind him at his feet, weeping. Her tears fell on his feet, and she wiped them off with her hair. Then she kept kissing his feet and putting perfume on them. ³⁹ When the Pharisee who had invited him saw this, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. She's a sinner!"

- Then he forgives her sins, which he obviously had done previously but does it at dinner to show the Pharisees and other religious leaders who he is...the Messiah

⁴⁸ Then Jesus said to the woman, “Your sins are forgiven.” ⁴⁹ The men at the table said among themselves, “Who is this man, that he goes around forgiving sins?”

- **There criticism did not stop Jesus at all...Their opposition grew in intensity and they kept following him wherever he went...**

LK 7:50 And Jesus said to the woman, “Your faith has saved you; go in peace.”

- both the giving of forgiveness and receiving forgiveness are acts of Faith...and **She knew what it meant of be forgiven.... Not being condemned any longer and the freedom it brought to her life...**
- To leave the old life behind and to begin a new life of faith, **for you to follow without your being concerned about the destination.**

Which takes us to chapter 8..Where we meet some women whose lives also changed from pain to purpose and a new passion

NLT Luke 8:1 Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, ² along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons; ³ Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and his disciples.

Women in Jewish society did not typically carry important roles, which makes their involvement in Jesus’ ministry more radical than normal

for the time they lived in. In every stage of His steps on earth, He modeled love for all, even the least in society.

Let take a look at Mary Magdalene... The deliverance that took place in her life on account of His miraculous presence inspired the rededication of her life to follow Jesus to His burial as all four attest that Mary Magdalene witnessed Jesus' crucifixion and burial. [Her name is mentioned 12 times in the Gospels, more than most of the apostles.](#)

- Luke's account suggests that Mary was a woman of means. the meaning of "Magdala" as 'tower' or 'castle.'
- *"Seven is biblical number suggesting 'completeness,' implying that when the evil spirits dominated Mary the suffering was extremely severe."*
- **Imagine the shame and trauma Mary suffer the relational devastation the psychological torment, and the bodily degradatrimon because of this demon possessionwealth is no shield from the devil...**
- **One can only speculate what it was like at the moment Jesus looked upon Mary in her state of desperation. Only He could have seen who she really was regardless of her derailed state.**
- **Not only did he recognize her, but commanded the demons to leave her. The friendship forged from the freedom she suffered through led to Mary's entire life henceforth serving as a reflection of her gratitude.**

Joanna was the wife of Chuza, who was the business manage of Herod Antipas, king of the Jews from 4 BC to 39 BC., the Tetrarch, Who reigned in Galilee. He was a son of Herod the Great. This is the same Herod who beheads John the Baptist at the demand of Salome.

Most likely Joanna and her husband had social prominence and were a wealthy couple in their time. This meant that Joanna could have spread

the gospel of Jesus Christ within the palace of Herod and gain entrance when many others could not. She did not have to worry about finance.

It is not known if Joanna had been demon possessed or had some kind of a physical or mental disability or both. She was healed and was grateful to Jesus Christ for that healing. So grateful for getting her normal health back that she traveled with Him and the twelve disciples while also financially supporting them out of her own resources.

Joanna was among the women at the crucifixion of Jesus. Joanna also was one of the women who prepared the spices and ointments for the body of Jesus. She was also among the women who had gone to the sepulcher. Joanna was with the other women; Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, who discovered the tomb was empty. Because Joanna was privileged to be close to Jesus in small groups and remembered what Jesus had taught them and understood the truth about the death and Resurrection of Jesus. The biblical account tells that Joanna was among the last of those who were at the cross of Jesus. Then among one of the first to witness the empty tomb and proclaim that Jesus Christ had risen.

Joanna had been placed in a perfect position in the court of Herod. She had the opportunity to reveal the truth about Jesus Christ among the court who only hears lies from the mouth of fear from Herod. Not only does the character of Joanna teach us loyalty to Jesus Christ her character is that of bravery and conviction to spread the truth about the Master. She was a loyal witness to the crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and was in a position to share the truth of Him.

Tradition suggests that Chuza lost his position in Herodís palace because of his Wifeís conversion to Christianity and her courageous testimony among Herod’s servants.

Susanna Luke 8 is the only place that Susanna is mentioned in the NT. Since so many women in the early Jesus movement were invisible and unnamed, the fact that she is named may or may not have meaning. She

may have been “less notable than Mary Magdalene and Joanna, but **sufficiently prominent** to be singled out”

Like Mary and Joanna, Susanna is described by Luke as a woman who followed Jesus and assisted him financially out of her own resources; she is also said to have been healed in some way by Jesus.

These relationships mean that Jesus indeed “spoke to women both in public and private, and indeed Jesus had close relationships with them – This often gets lost in the Christian tradition, which focuses primarily on the men of the movement, their close relationships with Jesus. But this is obvious...Jesus heals pain and gives purpose and passion to the broken...

He is heading to tour other town and villages...

- **But something is different now...Jesus changes tactics and begins to separate** out the serious from the curious and those antagonistic.
- **He introduces a new way of teaching and presenting his messages to the crowds....**

PARABLES...

A parable is a story with a double meaning...one is plain and the other concealed...

It is hidden in plain sight...It is an indirect teaching and requires the hearer to investigate further to understand the real meaning of the story.

He used this method for a number of reasons...

- 1. A parable reveals and hides truth at the same time...So Only those who really want to hear or understand what he is saying...will do the investigation to to find out**
- 2. Faith is born of the tension between the revealing of truth and the veiling of the truth...some I get and some I don't... your faith**

develops as you search out meaning and understanding... and only the hungry spiritually will do this.

3. the religious leaders had decided to kill him...so by confusing them in their understanding of his messages they would be delayed in their plans, until he was ready to be killed and until his apostles had matured enough and were ready to carry on the message without him....
4. Jesus speaking in parables was an act of grace to those listening to him. If they refused to listen to him their judgment would be less severe than if they understood more...then rejected...
5. It was an act of Grace for those who would refuse to hear now, but later would seek

The key verse is **Luke 8:8**.... *he called out, "Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand."*

- The word is hear and listen which appears 16 times in this Gospel...
- Hear means to reflect upon, or listen carefully to understand and receive and
- Of all the people that follow Jesus around...they all will hear what he says...but they not all will listen or take in what he says...
- Understanding changes and deepens over time and investigation...our experiences will cause us to reexamine God's word...as it confronts our expectations and what we understood before....

So once again we start with the crowd at the lake of Gallilee...

Luke 8:4 One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him: ⁵ "A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked

out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand. ⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: ‘When they look, they won’t really see. When they hear, they won’t understand.’

Outsiders see no revealing of the Kingdom of God in Jesus’ healing miracles, his power over nature, demons nor His teaching, and in time his death, his resurrection
But the insiders listen and seek to understand for their ears are open to learn...

1. The story of the sower was an accurate picture of the people’s reaction to his teachings.

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: **The seed is God’s word.** ¹² The seeds that fell on the **footpath** represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it **away from their hearts** and prevent them from believing and being saved.

The following analogies are in the parable:

1. **The Farmer** stands for Jesus.
2. **The seed** is the words of Jesus.
3. **The heart** is where the seed is planted

Notice that when the seed is sown four kinds of people are present...And the seed is sown to all... also Anyone can be any soil at a given time...

Today we will examine tow of the four Heart soils...

1. “The Foot Path Heart” people, see the seed but see nothing special...”in one ear and out the other”

¹² The seeds that fell on the **footpath** represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it **away from their hearts** and prevent them from believing and being saved.

- **Some people do not understand God's truth because they are not ready for it...or outright reject it**
- **These persons do not suffer from a thick skull but a hard heart.**
- **They hear the word but it is not absorbed...and easily picked away**
- **Now path people are not necessarily that way all the time...even followers of Jesus can have times of being path...hard hearted...**

Matthew 16:21 From then on Jesus began to tell his disciples plainly that it was necessary for him to go to Jerusalem, and that he would suffer many terrible things at the hands of the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but on the third day he would be raised from the dead. ²² But Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. "Heaven forbid, Lord," he said. "This will never happen to you!" ²³ Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get away from me, Satan! You are a dangerous trap to me. You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's.

- ***His heart was hard in that place and rejected Jesus word...it did not fit with the way he thought Jesus should do things... IT did not fit his idea of how the Messiah should be the Messiah***
- ***Yet earlier...he fully received Jesus as being the Messiah***

NLT Matt 16:5 Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah,^[d] the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ Jesus replied, "You are blessed, Simon son of John,^[e] because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being.

- Peter received this word from God the Father and fully believed it in his heart...

- How can this be? Because our hearts can be receptive sometimes...and also hard at other times!
- And wherever we are soft and receptive...healing comes
- Whenever we are hard...The Holy Spirit has to plow the ground so the seed can be received and take root...
- **The footpath soil is the hardened heart. ... the seed finds no where to penetrate so is easily picked off , swept off, blown away, eaten by birds ... I.e. Religious leaders.. like the enemy Satan**

Is there any areas in your life where the word of God touches you or moves you... but **the seed finds no where to really penetrate because your heart has been hardened by disappointment? Sin? Unforgiveness ?**

so the seed is easily picked off , blown away, eaten by birds?

Lets start today by praying for your heart to soften and so you can receive by digging up the evil and junk ..so the hard ground become soft...

James 1:21 So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls.

End

- **If you know these are the ways the word is received...you can readily pick out where you or someone is in there reception or lack of to Jesus words...**
- **Is there any areas that are not producing what we would like them to produce? How deep is the seed of God's word planted in that area?**

End

¹³ *The seeds on the **rocky soil** represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the **thorns** represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. ¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the **good soil** represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.*

2. **“Rocky Heart people, like many in the crowds who followed Jesus, their hearts receptive but shallow. Rocks under the soil...hard places in them...**

¹³ *The seeds on the **rocky soil** represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation.*

They receive Joyfully but when the good times of Joy are over and the times of troubles and temptation hit... the faith in God's word plant shrivels ...for the roots are not deep enough

- **Fall away when faith is challenged...by temptation**
- **The Temptation weed**

1Cor 10:13 The temptations in your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will not allow the temptation to be more than you can stand. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you can endure.

1. **Temptation seeds are common to everyone...our hearts are more receptive to some than others...but the seed variety is common...**
2. **The Temptation plant seed sprouts up fast but its life span is limited...each temptation plant only lives so long...Says God!**
3. **For God says The temptation weed will not be able to outlast our ability to stand against it...**
4. **And God will show us a way out of the presence of the temptation so we can survive (endure) or outlive temptation plant**
5. **So I have to believe the out is giving me...will work...or I will try to stand and face it in my own thinking and be overcome!**

But Jesus knows failing in one's own strength is part of growing our faith in Jesus

- **The antidote to rocky faith... one's faith roots must continually grow deeper in the heart to endure stronger temptations...this goes for trials also...**

Possibly end

6. **“Thorn heart” people**, The soil of our heart is receptive...but the competition with other plants is fierce

Luke 8:14 The seeds that fell among the **thorns** represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity..

- There are so many other plants also seeded in the Heart... the many cares or worry plants, the many and varied financial concerns plants, and so many pleasure-seeking plant seeds (which spring up fast but don't last...)
- So there is not enough room for the word of God plant to spread it's roots and gain a firm foothold.... and is so crowded out for heart soil by the competition that it never matures to produce fruit.
- With new worry plant seeds, new pleasure plant seeds and money worry seeds seeking to penetrate the heart soil...
- Be careful what you let get planted in your heart...watch your thoughts
- Keep nurturing the word planted in us so that its roots grow deep .
- **The shovel for these plants is worry...it digs the hole in the heart to plant the seeds..**

NLT MT 6: 31 “So don't worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ ³² These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your

needs. ³³ *Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.* ³⁴ *“So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.*

- **At best the thorn patch heart... remains an immature juvenile plant...**
- **Because these other plants are really weeds and fail to produce the wonderful fruit God wants..**
- **What fruit does the plant of worrying about tomorrow produce?**
-

Notice the problem is not with the seed, or with things or with people...the problem is with the soil...nourish God’s word through obedience...and he will give you all that you need...and often many wants...

4) “Good Heart” people, in contrast to all the other groups, listened to and followed Jesus no matter what the cost. He is first...

- 1. Those with a good heart or receptive soil**
- 2. Are those who hear the word receive the seed**
- 3. Retain, keep it, nourish it...weed out that which competes with it**
- 4. Which means to persevere in keeping and hearing...so it produces a crop...**

The four heart soils represent four different ways people respond to God’s word.

- 1. It is not just about four different kinds of people.**
- 2. Its about his kids who apply God’s word to some areas of our life but resist applying it to others. For example,**

- you may be open to God about your future, but closed concerning how we spend your money.
- You may respond like good soil to God's demand for worship
- but respond like rocky soil to his demand to serve people in need.
- **Good soil produces in varying degrees...which can and must be seen...it is the indicator of good soil...a crop is produced...**
- **Notice that the amount is not the indicator of how good the soil is...**
- **Produce is seen...and fruitlessness is seen also...**

But that it produces more than what was put in.....

*¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the **good soil** represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.*

- It multiplies through production of itself
- It is not how much you know
- It is how much you use of what you know...
- Someone who possess a little knowledge... but uses it will produce much more much more than someone who studies all the time and uses little of that knowledge

What your life produces is what the world sees...the world sees Jesus through the fruit of our lives...

Is there any areas that are not producing?

There are only a couple of reasons...

The word is rejected...path soil****

The word is on **rocky soil... hard place in the heart..where trials and trouble have thwarte your faith..**

****Thorn soil**...to many competing things worry, greed, things ...things of this world choking out the things of the Kingdom making one unfruitful in the Kingdom...**

If we don't understand this...we will never get the deeper things of God...

MK 4:13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?"

END

- When you talk with people about God, be aware that they will not understand if they are not yet ready for whatever reason
- Hear but reject and it is stolen from them...

and their antidote is summed up in this story

LK 12:15 Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed (the desire for things); a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (the lie wealth equals life)

LK 12:16 And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man (he already has plenty) produced a good crop.(he received more) ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' (he worries...He needs more, what he has is not enough)

LK 12:18 "Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry."'

- he already has barns...but must build bigger ones...so I wont have to worry
- so I can depend on them for many years...deceitfulness of wealth
- so I can take life easy...eat drink and be merry...so I can do and have all the things I want

now God's perspective on his idea...

LK 12:20 "But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?'

- He thought he worried about the right things...his wealth

- He was deceived ...he thought his life was secure because of things...
- Wealth nor things were the problem...they are neutral in the story... it was his attitude toward them...it was all for him...
- **He had plenty for himself... he already had barns...but instead of generosity toward God as demonstrated by helping others...he built more for to store for himself**
- **Thinking he would live a long, long time to enjoy the pleasures he could expend the money on.**

He neglected to realize his life and possessions are in the hands of God...all of it all the time...and God took it over...

LK 12:21 "This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God."

- **How will it be? you worry and gather for yourself and neglect others...**
- **You will worry and gather but not enjoy...store but not keep...simple..**

God speaks to this type of person in the Old Testament also..

*HAG 1:5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse *with holes* in it."*

- **All three are hindrances to the development of the Word in a human heart and are aspects of worldliness,...concentrating and focusing our attention on our world rather than on the Kingdom of God which is here and is to come.....**
 - **If God is not first...whatever is will ultimately prove unsatisfactory...for it is by nature transitory and deceitful... Fraudulent... untrustworthy**

- **How may I serve you Lord and serve your Kingdom today...and thank you for taking care of me and mine...ought to be our morning prayer...**

B. Deceitfulness of wealth....or the delight in riches...is the opposite of the worries of Life...

- **One has plenty and so is semi-contented and gives little thought and experiences little need of the words of Jesus or thought of the Kingdom to come..**
- **The temptation in wealth is to depend on it for all life's issues and not God**
- **It can create An attitude of self sufficiency and independence...**
- **You see money insulates from most of the harsh realities of life, so they do not feel they the need for the gospel.**
- **They can take care of themselves, the gospel with its self sacrifice, heartfelt generosity does not appeal to them.**

MK 10:17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him.

"Good teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

MK 10:18 "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone.

- If I meet that requirement ..are you going to listen to me...

¹⁹ You know the commandments: 'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother.' "

MK 10:20 "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."

MK 10:21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. "One thing you lack," he said. "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

MK 10:22 At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth.

MK 10:23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!"

- **He did good things...morally...but he was deceived by his riches...how? He would not give up riches that he ultimately cant keep...for riches that he could never lose..**
- **He would not follow Jesus at the cost of his *present* material possessions and wealth though Jesus guaranteed him greater riches if he did in heaven...but his temporary contentment blinded him...**
 - **Why? In his heart he felt greater allegiance to his current comfort...**
 - **He had more faith in them than the words of Jesus...**

C. The desires for other things...

*¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the *desires for other things* come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful*

- **The soil that receives the word also is eager to receives things..**
- **Relationship with Jesus and relationship with things ...and the corresponding chasing after them...**
- **takes so much time that the word of God is never deepened nor the relationship developed...**
- **Jesus becomes the genie God...These people have a lengthy “want” list they want Jesus to help them get it.....**
 - **As soon as they acquire this...they want that....**
- **these three draw our nourishment away from God and his kingdom and try to derive or sustenance from the world.**

They have three hindrances to being rooted in the word of God...

1) Worries of Life 2) the deceitfulness of wealth 3) the desires for other things

A. Worries of life... deals with the assumed needs of the present and/or the possible fear of losses in the future both of which require the expenditure of great emotional and mental energy...

- **Greatly depleting our joy, and contentment and peace...wearing us out...we are so wrapped up in the supposed never ending concerns of our little world ...we have no time or energy for the things of God.**
- **the woe is me syndrome...I just want to rest...I am too tired to pray**
- **I have no energy for anything else...I have no patience...**
- **I am so busy...Why wont God help me, I believe in him...**
- **I can't its to hard...**
- **No matter how much I sleep...I am still tired...I am burned out...**

A preoccupation with the worries of life...the damage is

4. **The footpath soil** is the hardened **heart**. ... the seed finds no where to penetrate so is easily picked off , swept off, blown away, eaten by birds ... I.e. Religious leaders.. like the enemy Satan
5. **The Rocky soil** is the unstable heart. ... committed flourishes while the sun shines in the good times but has no depth to its roots to nourish it with life giving water when the scorching heat of come...and quickly succumbs to temptation...
6. **The Thorn filled soil** is the heart receives the seed, and it grows, but there others things planted and nourished there also, cares and worries of life, riches and pleasures, and these competing affections...suck the nutrients that keep the plant from maturing and producing fruit/seed
7. **The good soil** is the receptive heart, a heart that is honest.. who tend the soil of their heart, clinging to the word attach themselves to it...and patiently produce the fruit of the seed.... is planted grows and produces
8. The birds of the air are the evil ones.
9. The sun's heat is persecution and tribulation.
10. The thorns are the cares, riches, and pleasures of life.
11. The variable yields are the variable effectiveness of Christians in bearing fruit.

- **Notice that when the seed is sown four kinds of people are present**

end

@@@@

The key verse is verse 9...

MK 4:9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

- **The word is hear or listen which appears 13 times in this chapter...**
- **Hear means to reflect upon, or listen carefully to understand and receive and apply ...**
- **Of all the groups that follow Jesus around...they all will hear what he says...but they all do not listen or take in what he says...**
- **only those who are truly interested to know and follow will get what he says for he will disguise his messages in such a way that it requires further investigation to understand them...in fact that is what all the Bible does to a degree...**

So once again we start with the crowd...he goes to the Lake of Galilee again...

MK 4:1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.

Jesus had prepared for this situation previously...before he went up on the mountain and called his apostles...

MK 3:7 Jesus withdrew with his disciples to the lake, and a large crowd from Galilee followed. ⁸ When they heard all he was doing, many people came to him from Judea, Jerusalem, Idumea, and the regions across the Jordan and around Tyre and Sidon. ⁹ Because of the crowd he told his disciples to have a small boat ready for him, to keep the people from crowding him.

- Jesus always prepares us for the future... they did not use the boat then...but it was prepared...
- I wonder if the disciples after preparing that boat...then Jesus leaves without using it...felt that was a waste of time...but no nothing God has us do is a waste of time...even though it seems sometimes that it was...

Back to chapter 4

MK 4: 3 "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."

MK 4:9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." MK 4:10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that,

*" they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!" "*

Outsiders see no revealing of the Kingdom of God in Jesus' healing miracles, his power over nature, and the spiritual. his teaching, and in time his death, his resurrection

7. The story of the sower was an accurate picture of the people's reaction to the rest of his teachings.

8. For the secret is revealed to those who respond to Jesus by hearing and following.

Let's examine briefly the parable...

MK 4:13 Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy. ¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop--thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown."

end

