

August 22, 2011

Into What Soil Does The Seed Fall In You?

We would like to help you have a better understanding of the nature of the work our Father has called us to. All of our materials are available for free on our website, yet our personal interaction with people seems much like a business that distributes things both "*wholesale*" and "*retail*." We see the "*wholesale*" element as the means through which these materials undergird and encourage those around the world who are making the truths our Father gave us to share their way of life. They then turn around to share the Hebraic foundations with others in their relational arena. The "*retail*" part of our ministry are those who contact us just looking for how to get out of their problems. Most of these folks have no desire to help others; they just want to get on with their lives unhindered by personal distress.

While we were in Israel our Father told us *to share* the Hebraic foundations. In one sense our work is like that of the farmer who casts seed on the ground, as related by Jesus to the crowd in Matthew 13:3-9. Jesus privately explains the parable's meaning to His disciples since He knows that unlike His listeners at large, the disciples' eyes are opened to see from His perspective, and their ears are attuned to obey what they hear:

*"When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and **does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path**" (v.19).*

*"The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since **he has no root**, he lasts only a short time. **When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away**" (v.20,21).*

*"The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but **the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful**" (v.22).*

*"But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is **the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown**" (v.23).*

The first three soils on which the seed falls *bear no fruit* for the Kingdom of God. In essence the seed is lost, for the hearer doesn't cling to it no matter what because he doesn't understand it. But on fertile, responsive soil, the person hears with a heart intent on obeying. That one understands the message and bears an extraordinary amount of fruit for the Kingdom out of grateful love.

The three types of unproductive, unresponsive soil on which the parable's seed falls are the "retail" portion of our ministry—those who look only to their *own interest* but have no intent on serving the interests of the King. However, the person who understands and bears fruit by reaching out to others represents the "wholesale" part, the "fertile, fruit-bearing soil" which brings such joy as we help them share these truths.

You likely realize that *understanding* God's Word is not a matter of just reading it or having it taught to you. Internalizing His Word is a heart matter of *intentional obedient trust* in following through with what He commands! If it's your heart's desire to become more like Jesus in your character development and in gratefully doing Father's will, consider these three steps toward *mutually growing together* as His sons and daughters in Spirit and in truth:

1. *Study* God's Word together;
2. *Discuss* God's Word together;
3. *Apply* God's Word together;

Because His Spirit does reside in humans like you and us who can be tempted to give way to sin, be quick to respond to the Spirit by earnestly repenting and confessing so that you might be forgiven, cleansed and made available once again for His use. Think about HIS joy when you're about His work, representing Him rightly according to His Word planted in the soil of your heart!

Please, prayerfully internalize within your heart this biblical reality that's addressed so strongly in Scripture:

**Bearing fruit for the Kingdom is the
key indicator that you truly belong to Jesus.**

If you have any doubt about this, revisit John, chapter 15, verses 1-15. Father has called each of those in His Son to bring glory to Him through the fruitfulness of our lives. A wise person once said, "Fruit-bearing is the evidence of life." Fruit-bearing through the Spirit at work in and through you evidences your connection to the Vine. Conversely, fruitLESSness indicates disconnection from Jesus.

Consider these sampling of verses that support this truth:

"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance" (Matthew 3:8).

"So you will recognize them by their fruit" (Matthew 7:20).

"Therefore, I tell you that the KINGDOM of God will be taken away from you and given to the kind of people that will produce its fruit!" (Matthew 21:43).

Pause for a moment and examine your heart. Paul marks a vivid contrast between the "acts of the sinful nature" and the *responsive outworking* of this particular fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control (see Galatians 5:19-24). You can't conjure this fruit up through your own strength, at least not for long! Authentic fruit remains alive and healthy while it's in

Christ, no matter what's happening around you. Human effort alone parades a "chameleon Christianity" that imitates perceived "spiritual" behavior according to what is expected by others, especially when all's going well with you.

- Do you love Jesus enough to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you what nature of 'soil' your heart is?
- In what ways are you are bearing fruit for the King so that He is lifted up before others by your life? Would He commend or admonish you, since His Word urges His own to live to please our Father?
- Ask others who are close to you spiritually to describe how your life is bearing fruit for the glory and praise of our Father. Are you willing to set aside clinging to the familiarity of "self" to the extent that Spirit-transformation can take place?

Only one kind of soil can reflect a heart that belongs to Jesus. It's the yielded, responsive one He can do exceedingly great things through, to the glory of the Father. To the other three soils who have heard the Word in the past but held it so loosely that it's been snatched away or displaced, Jesus sounds this warning:

"So it will be at the close of the age — the angels will go forth and separate the evil people from among the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will wail and grind their teeth" (Matthew 13:49,50).

If you realize you've been on the "retail" side our ministry using these truths only to help yourself, we encourage you to start reaching out to others and begin bearing fruit that lasts. (You might also want to look through your concordance for instruction from our Lord in how essential fruit and fruit-bearing is to your life—then put His words into practice!) We encourage you to print out some of these materials from our website that have helped you in your journey in Jesus and keep them with you in your vehicle. We're amazed how often we run into people at the supermarket, post office, or in public places where we have the opportunity to hand them something to stir them to either seek out Jesus or grow more deeply in Him.

God speaks through the prophet Isaiah to warn EVERYONE, not just the people of Israel, so that in holy fear they might humble themselves and repent:

*"I will **punish the world** for its evil, the wicked for their sins. I will put an end to the arrogance of the haughty and will **humble the pride** of the ruthless";*

*"See, the LORD is coming out of His dwelling to **punish the people of the earth** for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer" (Isaiah 13:11; 26:21). With all the calamity of "natural" disasters, wars and revolutions, pestilence and famine going on around the globe, could this in fact be the "birth pangs" of fulfillment of these words? Will hearts finally turn from false theologies and worldly pursuits and be humbled to cry out to Father in the Name of Jesus?*

Seventeen years ago our Father used Isaiah 6:8 to recruit us to share the Hebraic foundations: *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for Us?' And I said, 'Here am I. Send me!'"* Please read the rest of the chapter,

examining the soil of people's hearts then that so corresponds to that of many with whom He's sent us to share this message. Even while we were in Israel we were prophetically warned prior to our return to the United States, **"You are going to the hardest place on earth for these truths to bear fruit. People there don't need God, nor do they need each other."** This has been the overwhelming testimony of the past 17 years that we've been sharing the Hebraic foundations in this nation, whether through materials, the Internet or seminars. But in ever-increasing parts of the rest of the world where people DO perceive their need for our Lord Jesus and DO need the family of Christ among themselves, this message is already bearing much fruit.

Our Father impressed on our hearts that when the "dark days of chastisement" come on the United States, then our efforts will bear fruit here. The last verse in Isaiah 6 encourages us about this forthcoming responsiveness of others: *"And though a tenth remains in the land, it will again be laid waste. But as the terebinth and oak leave stumps when they are cut down, **so the holy seed will be the stump in the land**"* (v. 13). That's why our ministry at present is one of sharing the Hebraic Foundations and preparing today's followers of Jesus to fulfill their part in His Kingdom.

Each Jesus follower is vital to His Kingdom purpose! You may find your heart heavy because your desire to love and serve your Lord above all else is not resonating with anyone else around you. You're either finding yourself alone, or at least feeling that way! But take heart. The day will come when those who are now seeking first His righteousness and ongoing transformation into Christ's likeness *together* will produce a hundred, sixty and thirty times what has been sown in them. May each of you who are encountering the truths Father has given us to share be prepared as His beloved instruments to be mighty in Spirit in bearing fruit for His praise!

Journeying with you in the Vine,

Mike & Sue