

Title: The Truth about Evangelism

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9

Series: Bilingual

1. Introduction –

- a. As Christians, we all know that we must evangelize; we must give testimony to the Gospel of Salvation.
 - i. This duty arises from several places in Scripture, but none so direct as in **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. (19) Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (20) teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”
 - ii. This passage is known as The Great Commission. It has three major components:
 1. Christ has been given all authority in both heaven and earth. Therefore, He has every right to command His church.
 2. Based upon that authority, Christ commands the church to Evangelize. This evangelization includes the following three subcomponents:
 - a. We are to go into the nations to make disciples.
 - b. We are to baptize new believers in the name of each person of the Trinity.

- c. We are to teach new believers that obedience to Christ is fundamental.
- 3. Because we have been sent, Christ promises that He will go with us. In other words, we co-labor with Him for His glory.
 - a. **Mark 16:20** And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.
 - b. However, although we know that evangelization is an affirmative duty, it is also true that most Christians do not engage in evangelization. This is because most Christians have a flawed view of evangelization; therefore, we are **afraid** to call souls to repentance.
 - c. Today, I pray that our Lord would dispel some of that fear and embolden each of you with a desire to see the lost saved as we study the Parable of the Sower.
- 2. Verses 1-3: The Sower: That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. (2) And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. (3) And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow.

- a. Our passage opens with a brief description. The crowd is thronging Jesus, so that he could be heard and for His own safety, Jesus begins teaching the crowd from a boat near shore.
- b. His first words of the parable are, “**A sower went out to sow.**” Now, at first reading, these words appear necessary in setting the stage for the rest of the parable. However, I submit that these first words are the key to evangelism. Let us explore this phrase further.
 - i. I want you to notice the main character's occupation in our parable. He is described simply as a “**sower.**” Why is this important?
 - 1. Beloved, this is important because the sower is someone that the landowner hires to perform a specific duty. His job is to sow the seed in the field. That is it! He has no other duty but to sow.
 - a. He is not the owner of the land.
 - b. He does not prepare the land nor tills it.
 - c. He does not cause the necessary sun to shine or the rain to fall on the seed.
 - d. He is not responsible for the growth of the seed.
 - e. He is not responsible for the quality of the seed.

- f. Beloved, the sower is merely a hired servant whose only job is to spread the seed and let providence do what it will with his effort.
- 2. Beloved, much of our fear of evangelism comes from the underlying belief that we are more important in the salvation process than we are. We have questions like, “What if I get it wrong and someone goes to hell because of me?” Often, this fear cripples us into inaction.
 - a. Often, we are afraid we might spread a low-quality seed (not explain the gospel correctly.) (**GOSPEL**)
 - i. However, the quality of the seed that we possess has been given to us by the landowner Himself. You can only share that which has been given to you.
 - c. Beloved, we are simple people with an incredible message. We are day laborers with one duty, spread the seed that has been given to us. The power of the Gospel is in the message (seed), as it falls into the good ground (hearts tilled by God the Holy Spirit and not by us) and as it is nourished by the landowner and the elements (God and His grace).

- i. **1 Corinthians 3:6-8** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. (7) So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. (8) He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor.
- ii. So beloved, just as the **sower went out to sow**; went out to perform his duty, we must do the same thing. We must go out and sow. Sowing is the extent of our responsibility, and a failure to sow is unacceptable and sinful.
 1. This truth gives us incredible freedom to bear testimony of the gospel to the unbelieving world.
 2. Beloved, we are just seed spreaders.
 - a. We will glorify God for each salvation, but we will not take credit for that salvation.
 - b. We will glorify God when those who reject the gospel stand before God without an excuse on the day of judgment, but we will not take the blame for their rejection.

3. Our passage then teaches us some more incredible truths about evangelization. We are told that as we sow the seed of the Gospel, much of it will fall on substandard land. Listen to Christ as he teaches us that rejection of the Gospel is both common and to be expected. Rejection of the gospel is not your fault. You have done nothing wrong when you have honestly called a sinner to repentant through faith in Jesus Christ. The sinner's rejection has nothing to do with your persuasiveness, intelligence, or spirituality.

- a. Remember, most of Christ's hearers rejected him, and there was no better gospel preacher than Jesus Christ.
 - i. **Luke 4:29** And they rose up and drove him out of the town and brought him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they could throw him down the cliff.
 - ii. **Mark 12:10** Have you not read this Scripture: “The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;
 - iii. **Matthew 8:34** And behold, all the city came out to meet Jesus, and when they saw him, they begged him to leave their region.
 - iv. **Luke 17:25** But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.

- b. Beloved, we need to get over our fear of rejection. Souls are at stake. We cannot save or condemn anyone, but salvation does flow through gospel proclamation. Let us sow God's seed!
 - i. **Romans 10:17** So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.
- 4. Verse 4: Hard Ground: And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.
 - a. One of the types of heart we will encounter is the hardened heart. The soil has been trampled down. This is the heart that hates the mere mention of Christ.
 - b. When this heart is evangelized, the Gospel seed cannot penetrate. The heart is too hard. At that point, the devil sends his demons to devour (remove) the seed so that the possibility of coming to Christ becomes even more impossible.
 - i. In other words, this heart will not listen under any circumstances. This heart will be offended by the sower and by the seed. This type of person becomes abusive, aggressive, and sarcastic at the Gospel preaching.
 - ii. However, the evil of the hardened heart should not intimidate us into silence.
 - 1. The hater of God expresses that hatred by hating the people of God. The anger is misdirected. This person's hatred for God is their sin, and there is nothing that we can do to soften that heart.

5. Verses 5-6: Rocky Ground: Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, (6) but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

- a. The second type of ground (heart) is described as rocky with very little soil depth. The seed (word) sowed (preached) here seems to take root, but the depth of the rooting system is superficial. The person seems to have come to Christ because immediately, we see the seed springing up. In other words, there appears to be some sort of growth.
- b. However, the rocky ground is shallow and littered with rocks of self-love, self-importance, and self-preservation.
- c. When the sun (persecution and trials) arises for the sake of the Christian faith, this type of person immediately shrinks away from their confession. They choose to love themselves and this present world above the path of self-denial.
 - i. This person's eventual departure from the faith is their sin, and there is nothing we can do to prevent them from withering away.

6. Verse 7: Thorny Ground: Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

- a. The third type of heart is the soil where weeds grow. When the good seed (the word) is planted among the thorns (love of the world), the seed is choked out and dies. In other words, this person will not come to Christ because he loves this present age too much. He cannot bear the thought of turning his back on this world in order to gain the eternal world to come.
 - i. **Matthew 19:21-22** Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” (22) When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.
 - ii. This person’s love for the world is their sin; there is nothing we can do to prevent the seed from being choked.

7. Verse 8: Good Ground: Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

- a. The final type of heart is expressed as good soil. The seed (word) sowed (preached) takes root and begins to grow. This person comes to Christ as Lord and Savior. He sees the depth of his sin and miserable condition for the first time. He runs to the one that has paid sins debt. Immediately there is a change as his old nature has died, and he has been born again.

- b. This soul's salvation becomes evident because a new plant grows, matures, and bears fruit from that seed.
 - i. All Christians must produce fruit. Not in the same quantity (**some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty**), but each Christian produces fruit unto the landowner (God).
 - c. In other words:
 - i. **Matthew 7:17** So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit.
 - ii. **John 15:5** I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.
 - d. God, the Holy Spirit, has tilled the good ground; therefore, the word preached leads to salvation. We cannot take credit for the work of the Holy Spirit. We can only do as He instructs us. We sow!
8. Verse 9: Admonishing: He who has ears, let him hear.”
- a. Do you have spiritual ears? Has God spoken to you today? Do you understand the importance of what was said in this passage?
 - i. Ultimately, who will hear? Only the good ground!
9. Benediction:
- a. **Mark 8:35** For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it.

Public Scripture
Mark 8:34-38