

The Gospel of Matthew #95

WHAT ABOUT CHRISTIANS WHO “FALL AWAY”?

Matthew 13:1-23

Context: Major Sections so far:

Works: Narrative 1: ch 1-4: Birth & beginning of ministry
 Words: Teaching 1: ch 5-7: Serm on Mt: Lifestyle & blessings of disciple
 Works: Narrative 2: ch 8-9: Compassionate authority in action; beg crits
 Words: Teaching 2: ch 10: Commission to Kingdom ministry: Warnings & encouragement
 Works: Narrative 3: ch11-12: Apparent failure: doubts, unbelief, attacks
 Words: Teaching 3: ch 13: Parables of the Kingdom

This 3rd block of teaching is once again different:
7 parables.

Parable: “to throw alongside”: comparing 2 dissimilar things
6x: “the Kingdom of Heaven is **like**...”

Parables are

- a) realistic: commonplace stories of familiar things
- b) symbolic: illustrate some spiritual truth about the Kingdom
- c) both reveal and conceal

Parable 1: the four kinds of soils.

The story (v3-9) – Why parables? (v10-17) – Parable explained to the disciples (v18-23)

Look at first parable as answer to 2 important Qs:

1. Can a true Christian lose his/her salvation?
2. Can a true Christian not display visible fruit?

I. The Parable

- A. The context (ch 11-12)
- B. The parable (v3-9)
- C. “Why parables?” (v10-17)
- D. Interpretation of the parable (v18-23)
Q: how many soils are true Christians?

II. Two key words unlock the meaning of the parable:

- A. “_____ / _____” (v18)
Connects the meaning to what said in v10-17
- B. “_____” (v13, 14, 15, 19, 23)
You cannot understand the Gospel without it transforming your life

III. So the answers to the 2 Qs:

- A. Christians who “fall away” were never Christians in the first place
- B. The ones who call themselves Christians without any observable fruit are in fact not Christians at all

Fruit: Galatians 5:22-23; I Thess 1: I John

IV. The application for you

- A. What observable difference has Jesus Christ made in your life?
What is true of you that can only be explained by Jesus Christ in your life?
- B. Do you see the worries and deceitfulness of money choking your walk with Jesus?

Recognize and admit where your heart is and come to Him (11:28-30) for forgiveness and a new life.

- C. Are there people in your life who think they are Christians because of some past experience, who you need to warn of possible false assurance?
That is what Jesus is doing here for those who **want to know**