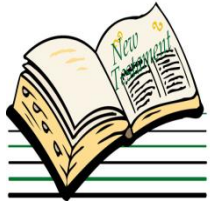


Sermon Notes



Title: "Why the Word Does Not Produce in Some, But Yet Does in Others"

Text: Matthew 13:1-23

Theme: In this parable Jesus stresses the responsibility of every person to hear the Word of God and see it produce good things in his or her life for the LORD. And yet, the deficiencies of the human heart prevent people from truly receiving that Word unless a heart to understand is granted.

I. The _____ for the Delivery of the Parables of God's Kingdom (1-3a)

II. The _____ of the _____ Itself (3b-9)

III. _____ on _____ Jesus Used Parables (10-17)

A. Divine _____ (11-13)

B. Fulfill _____ (14-17)

IV. _____ of the Parable (18-23)

V. Applications

A. I must _____ of how I _____ the Word of God.

B. Though _____ understanding of the Word is a _____ of God, no one can _____ as to _____ this blessing is ultimately _____.

Next Week Read: Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

Questions to Discuss and Consider at Home or in Small Group:

1. Where did Jesus go to talk to the crowds (v. 1)?
2. What did Jesus use to facilitate His address to the people? Where was the crowd located (v. 2)?
3. What was the type of teaching that Jesus used in order to instruct the people (v. 3a)?
4. What kind of common illustration did Jesus use (v. 3b)?
5. What were the four types or circumstances of soil that Jesus used in His illustration (vv. 4-8)?
6. What was the yield from the crop from the good soil (v. 8)?
7. What was the question Jesus disciples asked of Him (v. 10)?
8. What were the two reasons Jesus gave for the answer to the question His disciples asked Him (vv. 11-15)?
9. What prophet did Jesus cite as a reason why He used parables (v. 14)?
10. Why did Jesus say that the disciples were blessed (vv. 16-17)?
11. As Jesus explained the parable, what does the seed sown represent (v. 19a)?
12. What does the seed sown along the path represent (v. 19b)?
13. What does the seed sown on rocky ground represent (vv. 20-21)?
14. What does the seed sown among the thorns represent (v. 22)?
15. What does the seed sown on the good soil represent (v. 23)?
16. How does this parable help explain the issue of lack of reception of and opposition to God's Kingdom?
17. In this passage, what tells us that the human heart (whether it receives or does not receive the Word) is NOT the ultimate determinative factor for the different responses to the Gospel?
18. Are divine sovereignty and human responsibility at odds with one another?
19. How can you take better account of how you listen to and receive the Word of God's Kingdom?
20. What is meant by "heart knowledge" versus "head knowledge"? Is this distinction valid? What problems might stem from this distinction?
21. On a practical level, how does divine sovereignty impact your view of how God's Kingdom is advancing in the world today?
22. Why do you suppose Jesus used this illustration to explain to the crowd of people the different responses to His message rather than simply telling them that God determines whether or not they will or will not receive the truth?
23. Is there a danger in telling a non-Christian that the reason he or she is not a believer is because it is not God's will?
24. When someone does not initially respond to the Gospel, should we thereby conclude that he is forever "bad soil"?
25. What is the "special prudence and care" we should exercise in handling the "high mystery" of God's sovereign decree? (For one aspect, see *Westminster Confession of Faith*, 3.8, *Trinity Hymnal*, p. 850; https://reformed.org/documents/wcf_with_proofs/).