



Sunday 21 April 2013

GO DEEPER WITH GOD
7. LETTING HIS WORD WORK



OVERVIEW

- Scriptures
 - Matthew 13:18-23, Luke 8:11-15
 - Romans 12:1-2
 - James 1:19-21

MATTHEW 13:18-23

“Hear then the parable of the sower.¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.²⁰ The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;²¹ yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.²² And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.²³ And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

LUKE 8:11-15

“Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God. ¹² Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ The seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.

ROMANS 12:1-2

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

JAMES 1:19-21

This you know, my beloved brethren. But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger; ²⁰ for the anger of man does not achieve the righteousness of God. ²¹ Therefore, putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

- Some immediate observations
 - outcome depended on the quality of the soil
 - not the seed
 - not the intention of the sower
- Intention of the sower was the same in each case: fruit

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

- For the word to bear fruit
 - has to be understood or received
 - has to go deeper than just the initial reaction
 - mustn't be choked
 - needs perseverance

