

Bible Study

Date: 18 December 2009

Passage: Luke 8: 1 - 25

Heading 1. Ministering Women 1 - 3. 2. The Sower and the Seed 4 - 15.
3. Light Reveals 16 - 21. 4. Stilling the Storm 22 - 25.

Exposition:

1. Ministering Women 1 - 3.

V1. Jesus did not confine His ministry to one particular town or city but he travelled throughout every city and village preaching the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took with Him the twelve disciples whom He had called.

V2 - 3. Also Mary Magdalene out of whom He had cast seven demons, Joanna (the female equivalent of John) the wife of Chuza Herod's household manager and Susanna to name but a few. There were many other women that were with Jesus who provided for Him and His disciples out of their own income.

2. The Sower and the Seed 4 - 15.

V4. When a large crowd had gathered around Him Jesus began to teach them by means of a parable.

V10. In this verse Jesus tells His disciples why it is that He teaches the people the truths about the Kingdom of God in parables which is in fulfilment of the Scriptures (Isaiah 6:9, Ezekiel 12:2). But to His disciples He makes known the mysteries of the Kingdom of God.

V11. So He explains to them the meaning of the parable of the sower.

V5. In the first instance the sower is the Lord Jesus Christ but He has passed it on to all His followers (Mark 16: 15) and enables them to carry it out (Acts 1: 8).

V11. The seed is the Word of God and although we may wonder at times why it is not as effective as we feel it should be, it is not the seed that is at fault as this parable clearly shows. The Word of God is pure (Psalm 12: 6) and sure (Luke 21: 33). He says "I will feed you with the finest of the wheat" (Psalm 81: 16) meaning His Word. Every good gardener knows that if you want your seeds to germinate then the ground has to be prepared properly first, and the soil needs to be good for it to produce abundantly. It is the ground that it is sown in is at fault.

V5 - 12. The sower does not sow his seed sparingly from a packet but from a large basket and he scatters it over the ground, as he does some falls on uncultivated ground. This speaks of those who have an hardened heart. They hear the word but it goes no further than their ears. Like a bird Satan soon comes and snatches it away.

V6 - V13. Some fall on stony ground - this is the emotional hearers. They receive the word straight away with great joy and they seem to flourish for a while. But because they have not taken the word into their hearts when trouble comes and they are persecuted for the word's sake they fall away and are seen no more.

V7 - 14. Then some fall among the thorns - this is the worldly hearers. They receive the word of God but are so tied up with the world that they never become separated from it. They continue to walk in the ways of the world and to desire and fill

Bible Study

themselves with it until the word is crowded out and there is no room for spiritual fruit to grow in them (1 John 2: 15, Rom. 12: 2).

V8 - 15. The seed that falls on the good ground - the prepared and receptive heart. This is the person who receives the word in the very depths of their soul where it abides and matures. The person grows in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord and the fruit of the spirit abounds in them. This parable is generally applied to the sowing of the gospel message and is applied to the unsaved but it is equally applicable to believers and how they respond to the word of God. Jesus demands the attention of His hearers telling them to listen carefully and consider the words they have heard and understand what He is saying.

3. Light Reveals 16 - 21.

V16. No one in his right senses would light a lamp and then cover it over or put it under the bed so that its light is hidden. They would put the lamp on a stand so that those who come in will see the light and the way before them.

V17. The meaning of this verse is that whatever truths are hidden in the parables and has been revealed to the disciples (Matthew 10:27) will be made known by them to the whosoever.

V18. So he tells His disciples to pay very careful attention to what he teaches them. To those who do so a greater understanding of spiritual things will be given to them. To those who have no spiritual understanding even what the little that they think they have will be taken from them.

V19 - 20. At this point His mother and brothers came but could not get near Him because of the crowds. So it was passed on to Him that they were on the outskirts of the crowd wishing to see Him.

V21. Turning to the multitude He told them that it was all those who hear God's Word and obey it were His mother and brothers these are the true family of God.

4. Stilling the Storm 22 - 25.

V22. According to Mark 4: 35 it was at the close of the same day that Jesus got into a boat with His disciples and told them to go over to the other side of the sea of Galilee.

V23. As they sailed Jesus fell asleep and as He slept a windstorm swept down the lake and the boat began to fill with water and they were in great peril of drowning. The word used for wind in the originally is plural so it is "winds" meaning it came from all points of the compass. The Amplified Bible translates it "whirlwind".

V24. The disciples went over to Him and woke Him up shouting " Master, Master, we are perishing we are going to die". Jesus arose and rebuked the winds and the raging sea and immediately they ceased and there was a great calm.

V25. Turning to His disciples He rebuked them for their lack of faith. Remember they had seen Him do many mighty miracles and He was there with them in the boat. The disciples both terrified and amazed asked each other who could this man be. When He gives a command even the winds and the waves have to obey Him.