

Luke 8:1-15 – The parable of the sower

God is a king. Has kingdom. That kingdom grows in the world. But not a kingdom of the world; not like others. Grows very differently. Here Jesus teaches us about how it grows. How you hear the word? That's the challenge – v8. You must hear! Not every hearer the same. Sit same chairs; but different results. Why? What us?

1. Jesus and his disciples went sowing (v1-3)

Jesus went through the whole area – towns and cities. The word needs to go everywhere! He proclaimed the kingdom: that God would again make known his rule amongst men. As hearts turn again to God, the world begins to be put right. He went preaching – that is how the kingdom spreads; not by powerful or wise men but by God's word. The disciples went with him to learn. Others, women, went to serve. They gave what they could to help the work go forward. They were not ashamed to be seen with him, even though he was rejected and despised. They went together – high and low; we are all equal before Jesus. He was not ashamed to be with them – though the Son of God, he was pleased to receive their service to him.

2. The seed on the path (v4-5, 9-12)

Jesus told them a parable. A parable is “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning”; an every-day story to explain the kingdom. Here, there was a sower – a farmer spreading his seed. Some of it fell on the path that ran through the field. It was lost – the birds immediately ate it. Some people hear, but understand and obey nothing. Their lives are no different. Is yours? Jesus says that the devil immediately takes away the word. They do not believe, so cannot be saved. Verse 10 tells us that God does not reveal the truth clearly to some people; it is a way of his judging them.

3. The seed in the rocky ground (v6, 13)

Some seed fell in ground with stones. It sprung up; it looked good. But does it have roots? It will be tested. The sun comes up with great heat – if there are no roots it will wither and die. In the same way, our words about Christianity will also be tested. Troubles will come because of Jesus. Those with no roots are those who are not converted. The gospel is only in their heads and not ruling in their hearts. There will come times when you must choose to put Christ first or family first. Choose Christ or money. Choose Christ or sex, or Christ or friends. Which will you choose? Are you converted? Have you truly seen him by faith and been saved, or is it just religion?

4. The seed amongst the thorns (v7, 14)

Some seed fell among the thorns. The thorns grew more quickly and strongly, and choked the seed. What else is growing in your life? For some it is fears – worries and concerns. People look to these, and the word is choked. Or they look for life's riches and pleasures. They are too busy with those. Either we must put Jesus first, or we will not manage to have him at all. What is growing in your life and leading you away?

5. The seed in the good soil (v8, 15)

The seed in the good soil grew – and there was a harvest. Jesus says this is the person who hears with a good heart and holds on to the word. Do you? Challenges come; they are overcome. No weeds come up. There is very much fruitfulness. This is the only true way to be a disciple (John 15:2,6; Luke 6:44). We are saved to be fruitful. It may take time; but the harvest will come and be great. Is this you? Which seed are you?