20 07 12 What we Sow.

Genesis 25:19-34. Psalm 119:105 -112.

Romans 8:1-11. Matthew 13:1-9,18-23.

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It has always been a puzzle to me why people do not believe in the ‘good news’ of Jesus resurrection and life – of the bringing us clean into Gods presence – it is so simple, so much a response to the cry of the human heart.

How can the mind or the emotions or what? stop the coming in of the trust in Jesus?

A bloke that I worked with some years ago said “it’s just not in me to believe.” He could accept that Jesus was a real historical person but nothing more, yet for me it has always been there. At this point I need to say that there are blockages in some parts of me that seem to control the flow but the reality is in me.

Read Pauls account of his own feelings and frustration, anguish in Romans chapters 7-8. Can you feel the – not despair, but the anger the frustration, “who will save me from this body of death” and the reality in the cry of relief and overwhelming joy of –

“thank God in Jesus Christ!”.

“thank God” for what? for pulling him clear of himself, HOW ?

“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and of death.”

Our Lord tells us of some of the things that are death traps for some and hinderance for others in the path that we live.

Matthew 13:1-9,18-23.

V19 - people can hear the same words from the same person with the same intonations in their voice and many can respond – meet those same people months latter and the Lord says that we will find:

1. Some have not understood and there is no response in the being of the person. There may be bitterness that has hardened their mind/emotions, or like Paul – his education and pride, but the words of Jesus would only harden their resistance
2. Some who had become very excited and responded to the word of salvation and Gods love and when they are ridiculed or their faith is ignored they slide back into the old ways, maybe from loneliness. These people – like all new believers must be nurtured from the moment of conversion – the responsibility is just as much ours as theirs.

Yet some will never grow because the commitment was merely a moment of being part of the group – belonging, and maybe the hope that there was something. We do not know, but we are responsible to nurture the small amount of soil, to build it up, to enlarge it – they may still wither – that is between them and God.

1. There are some people who receive the word but they are so concentrated on their own life of stress or cares or ‘making ends meet, or position or grievances against others or a multitude of other things. NOTE that the words the Lord uses do not say that they fell away but “that they become unfruitful”! These we can get along side and just be friend – not continually preach words but genuine care for them.
2. Who are the ‘good seed’?

a) hears the word – not just with the ears but with the inner person,

b) understands it – so we have the intellect, the thought patterns the emotions all working together

c) all enlivened by God Spirit. and

d) they bring forth fruit – both fruit of their character and of God being able to influence people of His love and their place in the country of God. “God so loved His creation that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him will not perish but will have/*has* eternal life.”[[1]](#footnote-1)

The ‘fruit of the Spirit’ is the change and growth in our character – bringing us into the person that God had planned for us to be when He created us.

The fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law – we are free to be![[2]](#footnote-2)

Growing in our character does not mean that we are a lovely object sitting around to be admired – it means that we are fitted to become “fishers of people”[[3]](#footnote-3) in Gods Country.

Gods Spirit of truth brings to each of us a unique gift or ability to match the new creation that we are, that is suitable for the individual new person that we are.

*What brings a sense of familiarlarity to us* from the following:[[4]](#footnote-4)

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. ‘Special’ faith
4. Gift of healing
5. Effecting miracles
6. Prophesy
7. Distinguishing of spirits (v3 no one speaking by the Spirit of God says “Jesus is accursed” and none can say “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit).
8. Various kinds of tongues
9. The interpretation of tongues and in Romans:
10. Serving
11. Exhortation
12. Leadership
13. Mercy.

**“it is the one and same Spirit that works all these things and gives to each one individual just as He wills.”** V11,4, 5,6.

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| **Romans 12:6–8** | **1 Corinthians 12:8–10** | **1 Peter 4:11** |
| Prophecy **Serving Teaching Exhortation Giving Leadership Mercy** | Word of wisdom Word of knowledge Faith **Gifts** of healings Miracles Prophecy Distinguishing between **spirits** Tongues Interpretation of tongues | Whoever speaks Whoever renders service |

The entire point of the gift is to build up the body – see this in connection with the types of soil and the seeds scattered – these gifts are for strengthening and building up and must not be effected by the traits of our *old nature* – pride, looking down on others, feeling inferior, controlling others making money or fame and so on.

**Bold and humble** are indispensable in growing what is sown and for tending to the growth of others and - that – depends on building our own relationship with God and being totally sensitive to Gods Spirit speaking to us and giving us that little’ feeling of ‘no- wait – go”.

The Lord said to “walk in the other persons shoes”[[5]](#footnote-5) and a speaker on television this morning said “waiting on God is never a waste of time”.

“Whatever you do, do it for the Lord” remember Saul when Jesus appeared to him on the road to Damascus – “why are you persecuting ME”[[6]](#footnote-6) Saul was persecuting believers in Jesus but Jesus took it, and still does, Jesus took it very personally!

“God is stronger than any abuse. The Holy Spirit has the power to defuse the most raging resentment. He brings His power into the most troubled lives and p[[7]](#footnote-7)roduces something beautiful.”

Be quick to set things right with other people – Jesus in very interested in that other person and wants them to grow and bear fruit – some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty, and ALL of us to grow in the character that God knows that we are.

Sound exciting – YES?

1. John 3:16 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Galatians 5:22-23. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Matthew 4:19 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. 1 Corinthians 12. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Mark 12:31 and others [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Acts 9:4 [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Pg 166 ’Fresh Power’ Jim Cymbala with Dean Merrill. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)