

# Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

# NE → XT STEPS

“The Issue of Evangelism”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

“The Seed” = The Word of God”



Luke 8:5 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.

6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.

8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? ...

11 Now the parable is this: **The seed is the word of God.**

12 Those by the way side are they that hear; **then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.**

13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and **these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.**



14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are **choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.**

15 But that on **the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.**



We have been considering a vital issue for churches and members – evangelism. We began by looking at the “great commission” found in Acts 1:8:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, **and** unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I. THE CAPABILITY FOR THE MISSION “...receive power...the Holy Ghost...”

II. THE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION “...be witnesses unto me...”

III. THE CULMINATION OF THE MISSION “...the uttermost part of the earth.”

A couple of weeks ago, we considered the role of our church *body* in representing the Lord Jesus Christ in His *shepherding*...



I. THE ROLE OF THE SHEPHERD

II. THE REPRESENTATION OF THE SHEPHERD

“Christ’s Mission = Our Mission”

Jn. 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

I. THE FOCUS OF THE MISSION = The Will of God

II. THE FAITH FOR THE MISSION = The Word of God

III. THE FAILURE IN THE MISSION = The Displeasure of God

IV. THE FRUITFULNESS FROM THE MISSION = The Glory of God



Tonight, we consider “The Parable of the Sower.” It is recorded in three of the four biblical Gospels – Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, and Luke 8:1-15. The human heart is like receptive soil to the seed of the Word of God. Jesus used this analogy in the Parable of the Sower which will enlighten us about the work of evangelism.

## I. THE SOWER

A. The Initiative – “A sower went out...”

Hag. 2:19a “Is the seed yet in the barn?”

B. The Imperative – “...to sow his seed...”



## II. THE SEED

Psa. 126:5 They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, **bearing precious seed**, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

### A. The Seed Identified

Luke 8:11b “...**The seed is the word of God.**”

### B. The Seed's Intervention

1 Pet. 1:23 **Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God**, which liveth and abideth for ever.

24 For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the **flower** thereof falleth away:

25 But **the word of the Lord endureth for ever**. And this is **the word which by the gospel is preached** unto you.



### III. THE SOIL

#### A. The Condition when the Seed was Sown

Luke 8:5 “...as he sowed, some fell by the way side...”

Luke 8:6a “And some fell upon a rock...”

Luke 8:7 “And some fell among thorns...”

Luke 8:8 “And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit...”

#### B. The Consequent of the Soil's Sentiment

❖ The Careless Heart – “the way side” = vulnerability to spiritual defeat.

Luke 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; **then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.**



❖ The Callous Heart – “a rock” = shallow, superficial, indifferent, apathetic rejection.

Luke 8:13 They on the rock *are they*, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and **these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.**

❖ The Crowded Heart – “among thorns” = worldly, materialistic, self-centered = no time for spiritual things = NO FRUIT.

Luke 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are **choked with cares and riches and pleasures of *this* life, and bring no fruit to perfection.**

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**



❖ The Congenial Heart – “good ground” = conducive to fruitfulness.

Luke 8:15 But that on **the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.**



## Conclusion

1 Cor. 3:5 Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?

6 I have planted, Apollos watered; **but God gave the increase.**

7 **So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.**

8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: **and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.**

Isa. 32:20 **Blessed are ye that sow beside all waters**, that send forth *thither* the feet of the ox and the ass.

ALL THE TIME...EVERYWHERE