

Receiving the Word of God Rightly (Parable of the Sower)

Pastor Nick Lee

Sunday June 23, 2024

Matthew 13:3-23



SCRIPTURE READING

(33) Teach me O Lord, the way of your statutes, And I shall keep it to the end. (34) Give me understanding; and I shall keep your law; Indeed, I observe it with my whole heart. (35) Make me walk in the paths of your commandments, For I delight in it.

(36) Incline my heart to your testimonies, And not to covetousness. (37) Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things. And revive me in your ways. (38) Establish Your word to Your servant, Who is devoted to fearing you. (39) Turn away my reproach which I dread, For your judgments are good. (40) Behold, I long for your precepts; Revive me in your righteousness.

Psalm 119:33-40 (NKJV)

(1) That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. (2) And large crowds gathered to Him, so he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. Matthew 13:1-2 (NASB 1995)





(3) And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow; (4) and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. (5) Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. (6) But when the sun had risen, they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. (7) Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. (8) And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty.

(9) [He who has ears, let him hear.](#)

Matthew 13:3-9 (NASB 1995)

(10) And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” (11) Jesus answered them, “to you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. (12) For whoever has, to him more shall be given and he will have an ABUNDANCE; but whoever does not have even what he has shall be taken away from him.

Matthew 13:10-12 (NASB 1995)



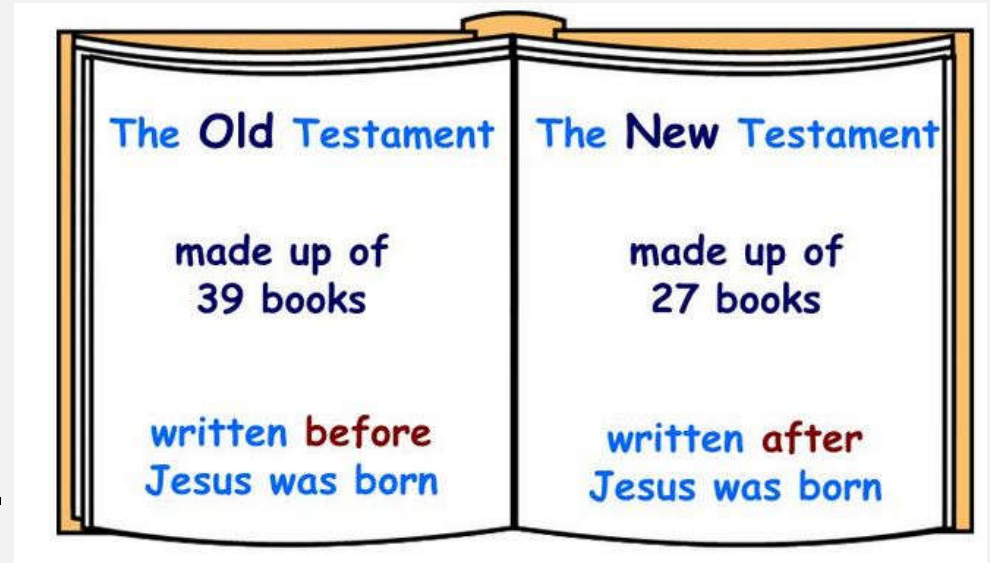


(13) Therefore, I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. (14) In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled which says: "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND, YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING BUT NOT PERCEIVE. (15) FOR THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.

Matthew 13:13-15 (NASB 1995)

(16) But blessed are your eyes because they see; and your ears because they hear. (17) For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. (18) Hear then the parable of the sower.

Matthew 13:16-18 (NASB 1995)





THE FIRST SOIL- DECEIVED HEARTS:

Does the Word of God go in one ear
and out the other?

(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.

Matthew 13:19 (NASB 1995)

**WHAT IS THE WORD
OF THE KINGDOM??**

**Word about the King,
and His name is:**

_____.





**GOD CREATED YOU
AND I FOR THREE
PURPOSES**

- To Know Him**
- To Enjoy Him**
- To Reflect Him**



**WE REBELLED
(sin) - word I in
the middle of
sin).**

But God is not just Creator, He is also Judge

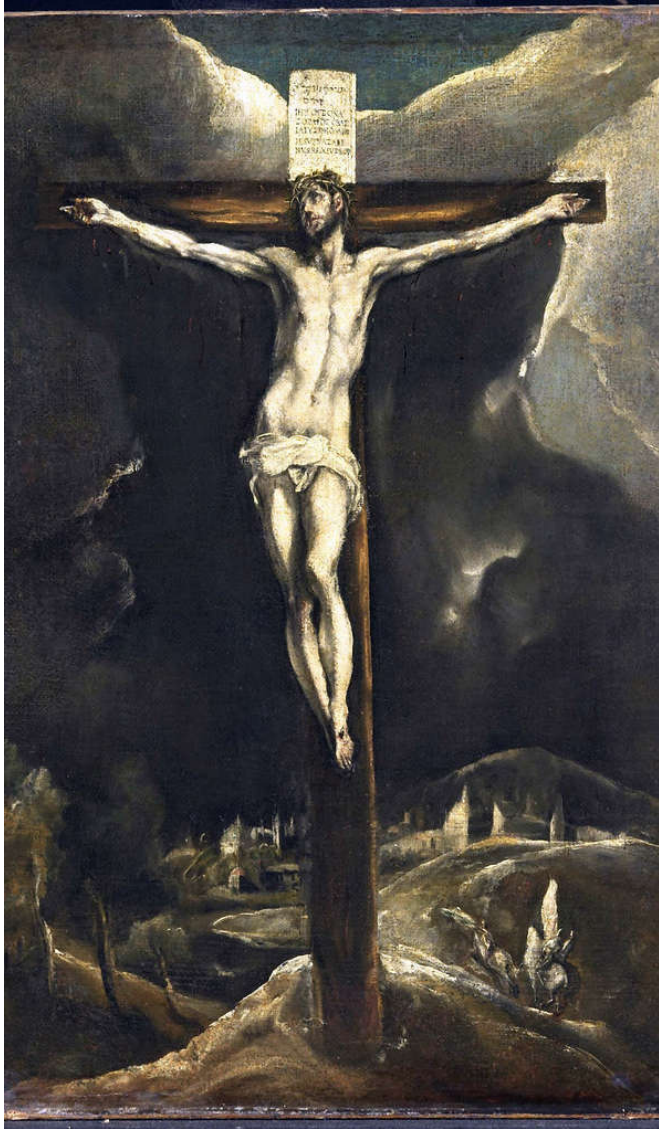


IN THE BEGINNING
GOD CREATED THE HEAVENS
AND THE EARTH

GENESIS 1:1

ChristianQuotes.info







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Matthew 13:19 (NASB 1995)

TIME

“I am astonished at people who say they believe in God but live as if happiness is found by giving two percent of their attention to Him.”

A tweet by John Piper.



The Bet by Anton Chekhov

A Free Audiobook Read
By David Wales For
Librivox

A landscape painting showing a wide, green field in the foreground, a wooden fence, and a distant town or village under a cloudy sky.

Anton Chekhov
The Bet And Other Stories



THE SECOND SOIL- DEPTHLESS HEARTS:

Do you neglect God and His Word when life gets hard? (Pain)

(20) The one on whom seed was sown in the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; (21) yet has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the Word, immediately he falls away.

Matthew 13:20-21 (NASB 1995)

In Joni Erickson Tada's Book: *Songs of Suffering*
She says pain ties us to Christ:

- (1) Identify with Christ: Ever been betrayed by a friend?
- (2) Share in the fellowship of Christ' suffering.

Excerpt on Barbara Brand (MS) and brain lesions that cause excruciating pain regular injections in her skull and neck (about forty at a time):

“Whenever the needle sinks deep into my head, the extreme pain brings into focus Jesus and his crown of thorns. The image calms my heart, but best of all it binds me to his love. I picture my savior yielding to the spike—like barbs, wholly embracing his own suffering to rescue me. So, when needles plunge into my skull, my heart is cheered knowing that he is beckoning me into a deeper sanctum of sharing in his sufferings.”





THE THIRD SOIL- DISTRACTED HEARTS:

Do you neglect God and His Word because other cares pre-occupy your heart and your soul? (Pleasure)

(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, the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word and it becomes unfruitful.

Matthew 13:22 (NASB 1995)

FAITHFULNESS TO HEARING GOD'S WORD DOES NOT ALWAYS RESULT IN FRUITFULNESS.

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.

-Luke 8:14 (NASB 1995)

The desire for other things. –Mark 4:19 (NASB 1995)

But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

-James 1:22 (NASB 1995)

“The greatest enemy of hunger for God is not poison but apple pie. It’s not the banquet of the wicked that dulls our appetite for heaven but endless nibbling at the table of the world. It is not the x rated video or pornography but the primetime dribble of triviality that we drink in every night. For all the ill that Satan can do when God describes what keeps us from the banquet table of His love. It is a piece of land, a yoke of oxen and a wife. The greatest adversaries of love to God are not His enemies but His gifts. And the most deadly appetites are not for the poison of evil but for the simple pleasures of earth. For when these replace an appetite for God Himself the idolatry is scarcely recognizable and almost incurable.”

-John Piper from the book: *A Hunger for God*



THE FOURTH SOIL- DISCERNFUL HEART:

Will you really receive God's Word?

(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 bears forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

Matthew 13:23 (NASB 1995)