

May 8, 2011

Randall L. Adkisson, Ph.D.

Monday

Mark 4:20 "Those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, a hundredfold."

The focus of Jesus' parable is upon the soil not the seed. In every instance, the seed was the same. The sower was the same in each instance. The difference was in the nature of the soil. God's word is the seed. It never changes. It produces fruit depending upon the soul (soil) upon which it lands. The word of God is sure and true. Its fruit in your life depends upon the condition of your heart. Read the parable again. Which soil is your soul? Too hard? Too caught up in the world? Too worried? Determine to be fertile soil, open, absorbing, nurturing the word of God as it falls upon your ears. Then the word will bear great fruit in you.

Tuesday

Mark 4:38 Jesus was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

The question of Jesus' care and concern should have been settled on Good Friday. For God so cared, so loved you that Jesus died for you - period, exclamation point, question settled. What more could He do? How much more could He give? What more could be said? The disciples might legitimately have asked this question. But not you! You have heard it, believed it, and confessed it as truth. Now exercise your faith in this truth of reality. Do not let yourself ask, "Does God really care?" Do not allow yourself the question, "Does God love me?" It is fruitless, discouraging, and lacking in faith. Believe God! Believe the cross! Believe the truth!

Wednesday

Mark 4:37 And there arose a fierce gale of wind, and the waves were breaking over the boat so much that the boat was already filling up.

You will surely recognize that even Jesus found Himself in dire, distasteful, disturbing, and daunting situations. Did God not love Him? Did God not care for His own Son? Difficult times are no reason for doubting God's love, grace, or work in your life. It is sad that many believers today believe that if they simply had enough faith or enough clout with God that they would never find themselves in difficult places. It simply is not true and this story proves it. What this story also shows is that it's not so important where the boat is, as who is in the boat with you. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart." (Prov. 3:5-6)

Thursday

Mark 4:16 "These are ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; but they have no firm root in themselves; then, when affliction arises they fall away."

The real answer to tomorrow's worries is the word you receive in yourself today. Storm clouds will arise. You can count upon it. Difficulties will rain upon your journey as they have upon every life. Those who weather the storms in victory are not those who turn to the scripture or to God in their moment of crisis. No, no, it is those who have turned their life over to God long before. It is those who have taken a steady diet of God's word and planted it with deep roots. Make yourself ready for tomorrow's challenges by giving yourself wholly to God's word today.

Friday

Mark 4:24 And He was saying to them, "Take care what you listen to."

We often emphasize the importance of what we say: "Watch your tongue!" Here Jesus emphasizes the importance of what we allow ourselves to hear: "Watch your ears!" As we measure the value of what we hear and then act upon the truth or falsehood of it, we will find blessing and favor or curse and hardship. What is more important to you: the word of God, or the latest gossip, teachings of self-reliance, the false gospels of prosperity? Take care what you listen to. Let no unwholesome word proceed out of your mouth -- or enter your ear.