

03222020 The Good Soil...Good Morning His Place say hi to someone you don't know...that would be weird...cause their in your house...One of the ways We are changed in our walk with God, is through looking at life and circumstances and trials and morality...with a different perspective...Paul says it this way...

1CO 13:¹¹ When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things.

- **That statement is called a paradigm...a paradigm is a way of seeing and thinking about reality...it is the lens, the filter through which we interpret the data and information of our lives...**

1CO 13:^{12a} Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.

- **verse 12 is called A paradigm shift....a paradigm shift is when we are able to break out of an old pattern of seeing and thinking into something new.**
- **This usually happens when the foundation of how we feel, think of see something is shaken by a whole new way of looking at life. Sometimes simply called an “aha” when some truth comes into focus that was previously not seen...or a best was blurred...**
- **Paul said ...When he was a child his parents were responsible for his growth and teaching him how to view life.... but now that he is a man...he is responsible for his views and actions**
- **Now it is his responsibility to learn and grow...a paradigm shift..**
- **When you follow Jesus you are in for whole lot of paradigm shiftsAs we will see today Jesus states a spiritual paradigm... and that is this...that the receiving (believing) of the words of Jesus by an individual can be measured by the response of that individual to life’s circumstances...in other words inner beliefs will match exterior actions...**

That spiritual maturity is directly tied to emotional maturity...they are not separate paradigms (realities)... this is what I believe ...this is how I live...but one reality...which are either in union with eachother or in conflict...

Our lives change in proportion to the correlation between our beliefs and our actions..... theology and psychology are connected...where God meets

humanity....what you truly believe will be manifest in your responses to your circumstances...

Change does not start with doing something new...it starts with believing something new...*Spirituality means nothing unless it is lived out in your humanity...*

Jesus explains this process to his disciples by the example of the four ways his word is received by people...

Let's pick up the narrative..

Luke 8:4 One day Jesus told a story in the form of a parable to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear him:

- Up unto this time Jesus used direct language when teaching the people about himself and the Kingdom of God....but now he changes his approach...using a new method using parables when preaching in public... **Jesus taught the people by telling stories called parables, using familiar scenes to explain spiritual truths.**
- **A parable is a story with a double meaning...one is plain and the other concealed...It is hidden in plain sight...**
- **It is an indirect teaching and requires the hearer to investigate further to understand the real meaning of the story.**
- **A parable reveals and hides truth at the same time...**
- **For faith is born of the tension between the revealing of truth and the veiling of the truth...what do I believe???**
- **Why? Faith is nourished fed or grows by the search for understanding...**
- **This method of teaching compels the listener to think. It conceals the truth from those who are too stubborn or prejudiced to hear what is being taught.**
 - **He used this method for a number of reasons...**
 1. **The religious leaders had decided to kill him...so he must take some of the heat off...by confusing them in their understanding of his message to delay them until he his apostles were ready to carry on...and he was ready to by killed...**
 2. **And Jesus speaking in parables was actually an act of grace to those listening to him. If they refused to listen to him and judgment would be less severe then if they understood more...**
 3. **others were looking for a military/political leader or Messiah and could not fit his teaching into their preconceived ideas. so they rejected it**

4. It was a method to separate sincere seekers and followers from those who are looky loos... curious to see what miracle Jesus would do next not wanting to look too deeply into Jesus' words. they were seekers so he shares...

Luke 8:5 “A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When he had said this, he called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He replied, “You are permitted to understand the secrets of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables to teach the others so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: ‘When they look, they won’t really see. When they hear, they won’t understand.’^[b]

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. ¹² The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. ¹³ The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. ¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

The following analogies are in the parable:

The Farmer stands for God...The seed is the word of God.

The foot path is the hardened ground...well travel compacted earth from much traffic...the Hardened hearer.

The Rocky soil is the unstable hearer....The thorny ground is the ground nourishing many plants.. hearer who allows the seeds of the cares, riches and pleasures of life to choke out the word.

The good soil is the faithful hearer who bears fruit...because the word matures in them to produce fruit... and a Harvest

The Devil is the one who steals, kills and destroys the word planted

Notice...the Sower Scatters seed on the soil ...

- Seed was planted by hand. As the farmer walked across the field, he threw handfuls of seed onto the ground from a large bag slung across his shoulders.
- The plants did not always grow in neat rows as they do with today's machine planting. ...No matter how skillful, no farmer could keep some of his seed from falling on the footpath, from being scattered among rocks and thorns, or from being carried off by the wind.But enough would fall on good ground to ensure the harvest.

Notice that when the seed is sown four kinds of people are present

Notice the seed is sown to all..

1) "Foot Path" people, see the seed but see nothing special... like many of the religious leaders, refused to believe God's message. They suffer from the sin of pride... **Pride is the very essence of sin. It links the child of God with the enemy of God...** who could not fit his teaching and ways into their preconceived ideas and beliefs, so they rejected it

The sin of pride is the sin of sins. It was this sin, which transformed Lucifer, an anointed cherub of God, the very "seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty,"¹ into Satan, the devil, the father of lies, the one for whom Hell itself was created.

These persons do not suffer from a thick skull but a hard heart. Hear but reject and it is stolen from them

They hear the word but it is not absorbed...and easily picked away

1. Now path people are not necessarily that way all the time...even followers of Jesus can have times of being path...hard hearted...
2. **Pride is inordinate esteem of oneself...no need to be saved or healed....were already alright...**
3. **It is inordinate because it is contrary to the truth.**
4. They Hear but do not take it into their heart... and it is easily stolen from them
5. The road or path soil shows that Satan is a great danger to those who hear indifferently...
6. And often causes them to oppose the Kingdom...religious leaders, Herod Pilate
7. They hear the word but it is not absorbed...and easily picked away

8. We are never acting more satanically than when we act in pride.

2) The rocky heart, like many in the crowds who followed Jesus, their hearts receptive but shallow. there are Rocks under the thin covering of soil...hard places in them... They follow as long as they are happy...honeymoon followers... but ready to break up when trouble comes...

- **They receive Joyfully but when the good times of Joy are over and the times of Tribulation and persecution the plant shrivels**
- **Like a firework...shine bright for a while...** The Difference Between Loving God's Blessings and Loving God is demonstrated in turbulent times!!
- **examples: Fall away when faith is challenged... John the Baptist in Prison and Peter protesting he would not deny Jesus..**
 - **The antidote... one's faith must develop a good deep broad root system to endure trials and persecution...**

3) "Thorny soil" people, soil is receptive...but it nourishes many plants it is so weed ridden that there is not enough nourishment for the seed and it is starved and suffocated...

Luke 8:14 The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

- **This is the divided heart... competing passions... The problem is focus... they are the spiritual ADDers ...their attention get easily drawn away from the words of God and his kingdom and is consumed with the worlds kingdom.**
- **Now, every gardener knows that the weeds grow with a speed and a strength that few good seeds can equal. The result is that weeds are so strong that they choke the life out of the seed, and it never matures, while the weeds flourish and produce more weeds.**

They have three hindrances to being rooted in the word of God...

A. Cares or Worries of life... deals with the assumed needs or lacks of the present and/or the possible fear of loss in the future both of which expend great emotional and mental energy

- **worry is corrosive it eats away our joy, contentment and peace...and energy...wearing us out... I am so stressed...I just want to sleep...I am so tired ...I have no energy to do anything...I have no patience...I am so busy...**

- I am burned out... These are all symptoms of A preoccupation with the worries of life...
- The worries of the world choke out our hope and security in God...we never learn to stand fast, to take thoughts captive...we remain immature never growing out of a child's maturity level...where everything is the biggest thing...
- B. Deceitfulness of wealth.... Wealth tends to create the illusion of safety and security because it has the capacity to insulate those who have wealth from many of the harsh realities of life, so they do not feel they the need for the gospel.
- This type of weed chokes out the Word by placing ones confidence and trust in their possessions rather than God
- The problem is it is temporary relief...but illness, disease, economic change, war...old age...prove its insulating power has limits...
- Only Gods word last forever

3) Pleasures of this life..The follower of Jesus is not denied pleasures. The phrase "pleasures " does not indicate that the Jesus follower is to have no pleasure ... It is not sin for the Christian to enjoy life.

- The problem is when our Desires for things and the corresponding chasing after them...the time energy and resources...takes so much out of us that the word of God is not considered a priority...
- Overcome by the lure of materialism; leave no room in their lives for God.
- most people have a lengthy "want" list ...As soon as they acquire this...they want that....At best the thorny soil person remains an immature juvenile plant... chasing after that which is temporary

Finally we come to the good soil heart, the responsive heart, the open heart in verse 15:

Luke 8:15 And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

- The good soil ... is not merely soil of sufficient quality and depth to receive the seed...but is committed to the seed to grow it.. into maturity where it produces

a harvest....the soil now works with the seed to mature the plant so that it produces life...fruit and drops more seed. A Harvest

- Prior to receiving the seed...it is soil used for many different plants or just barren but now There is a change of purpose for the soil ... **produce fruit !**
- Only soil that produces fruit pleases the Father. Has the Word of God affected you? The moral of the story: Be the right soil

The four soils represent four different ways people respond to God's message. Usually we think that Jesus was talking about **four different kinds of people. But he is also talking about:**

- Different times or phases in a person's life....How we willingly apply God's message/seed to some areas of our life but resist applying it to others.
- For example, you may be open to God about your future ...but closed concerning how you spend your money.
- You may respond like good soil to God's demand for worship ...but respond like rocky soil to his demand to serve people in need.
- Good soil produces in varying degrees...which can and must be seen...it is the indicator of good soil...a crop is produced...
- Notice that the amount of seeds is not the indicator of how good the soil is...
- For a plant to produce it has to sprout out of the soil ...it must mature...and mature plants attract...
- It is not how much you know...or the potential in the seed... It is how much you use of what you know...what the seed of God produces in a person...
- one seed has the capacity to produce..Someone who possess a little knowledge... but uses it will produce much more much more than someone who studies all the time and uses little of that knowledge

Use the toothpaste example...if I call myself toothpaste container...then when I am squeezed Toothpaste should come out! If I call myself a Christian when I am squeezed...Jesus... should come out of me...the last word is Jesus!! Because what comes out of our mouth is what is really inside of us ...

It reveals and exposes our heart...and mind...end

- When others bail out...you keep on bailing
- When others give up you keep on going... end

end

- ...like this one...

Romans 8:15 So you have not received a spirit that makes you fearful slaves. Instead, you received God's Spirit when he adopted you as his own children. Now we call him, "Abba, Father." ¹⁶ For his Spirit joins with our spirit to affirm that we are God's children.

- **That is a massive paradigm shift..going from fear filled victims (slaves)**
- **To Spirit filled beloved Children of God! Believe it enough so you have confidence I the ever changing circumstances of life on earth.**

- **The Difference Between Loving God's Blessings and Loving God is demonstrated in turbulent times!!**

settles for the immediate rather than long term

All of these hindrances to receiving the seed of the word of God.. and their antidote is summed up in this story

HAG 1:5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways.
⁶ You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough.

*You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse **with holes** in it."*

➤ **if we nurture our immaturity and self-centeredness, we will become more and more immature, but if we sow to the Spirit, if we respond to the Kingdom invitation and its demands, we will grow.**

Jesus is in the business of creating paradigm shifts in our hearts... breaking us out of old patterns of seeing and thinking into new...so that lasting fruit may be produce in our lives...

This is seed that falls "on good soil."

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Luke 8:14 ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

Then the thorny soil...

➤ **This is the divided heart... competing passions... And, this would represent THE OVER-INVOLVED HEART which belongs to the hearer who has so many interests in life that certain things (and often the most important things) get crowded out.**

➤ **Now, every gardener knows that the weeds grow with a speed and a strength that few good seeds can equal. The result is that weeds are so strong that they choke the life out of the seed, and it dies, while the weeds flourish.**

➤ **Many of us are like this in that we tend to give first-rate loyalties to too many second-rate causes.**

- **"Thorn patch"** people, soil is receptive...but it nourishes many plants it is so weed ridden that there is not enough nourishment for the seed and it is starved and suffocated...

¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity.

The problem is focus... these three draw focus away from God and his kingdom and place the emphasis on the world.

They have three hindrances to bring rooted in the word of God...

1. Worries of Life
2. the deceitfulness of wealth
3. the desires for other things

A. Worries of life... deals with the assumed needs of the present and/or the possible fear of loss in the future both of which expend great emotional and mental energy

- Greatly depleting our joy, and contentment and peace...wearing us out...we are so wrapped up in the concerns of the world we have no time or energy for the things of God.
- I just want to rest...
- I am too tired to pray
- I have no energy for anything else...
- I have no patience...
- I am so busy
- I can't its to hard...
- No matter how much I sleep...I am still tired..
- I am burned out...
- A preoccupation with the worries of life...the damage is we **focus** on the world rather than the Kingdom of God. The worries of the world choke out the kingdom of God...

B. Deceitfulness of wealth....or the delight in riches...takes the opposite effect...

- This type of weed does not choke the word by excessive worry because of need in the world so no thought of the Kingdom...
- ...but because of plenty in the world no need of the spiritual or thought of the Kingdom to come..
- The temptation in wealth is to depend on it for all life's issues and not God

- It can create An attitude of self sufficiency and independence...
- You see money insulates from most of the harsh realities of life, so they do not feel they the need for the gospel.
- They can take care of themselves, the gospel with its self sacrifice, heartfelt generosity does not appeal to them.

This is true of so many in all ages, and is, in a sense, true to some extent in all.

- Human hearts are seed beds, not merely of the truth of God, but also of every possible philosophy of human beings.
 - Weeds can be pulled at any time...they do not need to reach maturity...but it is when they reach maturity...that they are most dangerous...
 - For numberless souls, it is just a case of permitting the word of God to be choked out by other things.
 - Those who correspond to the thorny soil are they who have not ordered life's priorities.
 - No man can do everything that comes into his mind as permissible or desirable; and those who attempt to do so will find their lives so filled up that there is not any time left, not even time to pray. "
 - **The more complicated life becomes, the more necessity there is to see that our priorities are right.**
 - **“divided heart” people, soil is receptive...but nourishes too many other plants that produce little but take much nourishment...).**
 - No farmer purposely scatters seed into thorns. But there may be thorn seed in the soil in certain spots. it already is present ...but not necessarily everywhere...
9. it is so weed ridden that there is not enough nourishment for the seed and it is starved and suffocated...the weeds must be pulled...
- 10. the weeds stand for the pursuit of these things...chasing with all ones might...**

Pleasures may be either sinful or innocent, Luke having reference to innocent pleasures, and Mark to sinful pleasures. In Jesus' parable, there can be no doubt that both were in view; thus we have another example of the necessity of taking into account all that is written in order to know the whole truth.

The distraction comes this way...

- the Worries of life...sap much energy
- pleasures in riches...takes so much effort...
- desires for things...takes so much time that the word of God is never developed...
 - overcome by worries and the lure/lust of materialism, leave no room in their lives for God.
 - ***Seduction by other priorities*** –
 - **“The worries of the world”—that is the fear response, and “the deceitful glamour or riches”—that is the—the person who believes that material possessions and fame will lead to ultimate fulfillment.**
 - **The most commonly-cited obstacle to spiritual growth by Americans is busi-ness, distractions.**
 - **Is your life choked by the distractions of worldly cares, wealthy pleasures, and desire for other things?**
 - **Was Jesus talking about you?**
 - **the Worries of life...sap much energy**
- **To busy to spend time with Jesus ...Notice the importance Jesus places on one on one time...individual time alone...**

C. **The Pursuit of Pleasures... and Deceitfulness of wealth....**or the delight in riches...takes the opposite effect... **The desire for pleasures...**

D. The follower of Jesus is not denied pleasures.

E. The phrase "pleasures " does not indicate that the Jesus follower is to have no pleasure ... It is not sin for the Christian to enjoy life.

F.

- Desires for things and the corresponding chasing after them...the time energy and resources...takes so much out of us that the word of God is never considered a priority...
 - Overcome by the lure of materialism; leave no room in their lives for God.
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All of these hindrances to receiving the seed of the word of God.. and their antidote is summed up in this story

*HAG 1:5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. ⁶ You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse **with holes** in it."*

Finally we come to the good soil heart, the responsive heart, the open heart in verse 15:

¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

The good ground ...

is not merely ground of sufficient quality and depth to produce a harvest, but it is likewise unencumbered ground. In the fast-moving current era, perhaps the encumbrances are the greatest deterrent to fruit-bearing.

- to die to an old priority system, an old way of thinking and being, that something new might live.
- We need to devour the truth and let ourselves be conformed to it....
- There is an exchanged life here, that Someone else's point of view and priority system should prevail in my life. This is what it means say a deep "Yes" to the Kingdom invitation. It is not a once for all thing, but a daily challenge.

I only know this: it is what I nourish that will grow. if we nurture our immaturity and self-centeredness, we will become more and more immature, but if we sow to the Spirit, if we respond to the Kingdom invitation and its demands, we will grow.

Jesus is in the business of creating paradigm shifts in our hearts... breaking us out of old patterns of seeing and thinking into new...so that lasting fruit may be produce in our lives...

This is seed that falls "on good soil."

Remember, This parable is a warning to the soil. It conveys the importance of lasting fruit—fruit that remains. Only soil that produces fruit pleases the Father. Has the Word of God affected you? The moral of the story: Be the right soil.

What is produced ...the character of Jesus....

The four soils represent four different ways people respond to God's message. Usually we think that Jesus was talking about **four different kinds of people**. But he may also have been talking about

(1) **Different times or phases in a person's life or**

(2) How we willingly apply God's message to some areas of our life but resist applying it to others. For example,

- you may be open to God about your future
- but closed concerning how you spend your money.
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- **Notice that the amount is not the indicator of how good the soil is...**
- **For a plant to be produce it must be seen... it has to sprout out of the soil...**
- **It multiplies through reproduction...**
- **It is not how much you know...or potential in the seed...**
- **It is how much you use of what you know...what the seed of God produces in a person...**
- **Someone who possess a little knowledge... but uses it will produce much more much more than someone who studies all the time and uses little of that knowledge**

1. use the toothpaste example...if I call myself toothpase container...then when I am squeezed Toothpaste should once out!

- **If I call myself a Christian when I am squeezed...Jesus... should come out of me...the last word is Jesus!!**
- **Because what come out of our mouth is what is really inside of us ...**
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- This type of weed does not choke the word by excessive worry because of need in the world so no thought of the Kingdom...
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The follower of Jesus is not denied pleasures.

The phrase "pleasures " does not indicate that the Jesus follower is to have no pleasure ... It is not sin for the Christian to enjoy life.

Only when the pursuit of pleasure, that is, chasing any sinful pleasure, or the inordinate pursuit of innocent pleasure, weans away from Jesus is it, forbidden.

Parable of the Lamp

¹⁶“No one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house. ¹⁷For all that is secret will eventually be brought into the open, and everything that is concealed will be brought to light and made known to all.

¹⁸“So pay attention to how you hear. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. But for those who are not listening, even what they think they understand will be taken away from them.”

What your life produces is what the world sees... the character of Jesusthe world sees Jesus through the light of our lives...

Jesus in his explaining the parable...of the soil uses an ordinary lamp as the example of the light that is given to the world...

LK 8:16 "No one lights a lamp and hides it in a jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, he puts it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. ¹⁷ For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. ¹⁸ Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what he thinks he has will be taken from him."

Light is essential for life to exist. Without light plants, animals and man would be left in

the shell...

Seed only grows when it is exposed to **enough light...**

- **As he goes on to tell his disciples with the next example...light**
- A candle or lamp is a remarkable invention that dispels darkness...one uses a liquid as fuel...oil and one uses a solid ...wax... which liquefies as it is heated
- Darkness with all its power, to blind frighten and confuse...is no match for light...
- Even the smallest light chases darkness away...
- A candle, a lamp and in our day a light bulb gives its light at great expense to itself...
- It is consumed in the process of giving light. They burn out eventually
- Even the sun and the stars do not escape this phenomena...they do and will burn out

Explain light in a roman/Jewish household...

- Oil fired lamps are critical in a land without electricity...in America we do not appreciate this fact ...but much of the world would.
- Lit once and then stayed on all the time or transferred the light while the oil was refilled...when they left the house the lamp was placed under an earthen shelter..kept lit...but used to avoid accidental fire...

So Jesus is saying that we are light to this world ...light reflects...what it is shined on

- **It is how much you use of what you know...**
- **Someone who possess a little knowledge... but uses it will produce much more more than someone who studies all the time and uses little of that knowledge**

and

- **We glow communally much brighter than any glow alone... city on a hill..**

- That is what makes us a city on a hill...that people will and should look up too.

First...light is meant to be seen...it reveals truth...it reveals what really is...

Light is needed not only to live but to see. In actuality we don't really see anything anyway

but a reflection of light off another object.

- In the spiritual realm Jesus is the light that dispels darkness...and it would cost him...
- Fallen man is in a state of darkness, unable to see his sins because there is no light to reflect on them.
- He is that lamp that will reveal light...and amazingly he says we will be too...
- We also are called light

The "Light of the World" is the Son of God. Jesus declared himself to be such. He is the one who made the sun, for he existed with the Father in creation. He is also the one who with one bold stroke declared, "I am the light of the world."

JN 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

- You know it is interesting
- that when night comes and the sun's light is not seen we never doubt that morning will come..
- or when the light of the sun is covered by clouds and we experience storms...we never doubt that the sun is still in the sky and will shine again...
- and yet it is so easy for people to ask...where is God? when the light of God is sometimes covered by the storms of life...
- as if he is vanquished...weird eh!
-

It may well be said that this is the greatest compliment the Lord could pay anyone...for in it Jesus commands the Christian to be what he claimed himself to be...

When Jesus stated that his followers were lights to the world he said they were to be like him to the world... Jesus goes on to explain some things about light...

One ...the lamp is lit by someone else... (no one lights a lamp)
 the lamp is lit by a light...Jesus the lighter...
 we are the lamp...the lamp does not light itself it is lit by another

The light produced in our lives is to bring out the God-colors in the world...we are to go public, God is not a secret to be kept but a light to be shown....

Once we believe and understand Jesus as "The Light of the World" and are becoming truly human as God created us, then, finally, the light in us calls forth a certain response from us. We follow. We have the light and that light cannot be hidden.

Can we truly say we love God, when so much of the World is in turmoil and need and not do anything about it?

Do we conform to it or isolate from it? No

We must...we have to, I want too actively partake in the Mission of Jesus...

Neither conforming to the world around us nor isolating ourselves from it...

Being a light...

but accepting the call and will of God to be good soil and a bright lamp...

be like that exit light...shining day and night ...rarely noticed ... patiently shining its light to guide those in need toward safety...while slowly burning itself out, until a time of need

are you up to the challenge and call? I think you are

End

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11.

The root of pride is found to consist in man not being, in some way, subject to God and His rule." Thomas Aquinas

They receive the seed but see nothing special about it...

- Pride is a preoccupation with self. It is thus very fitting that the middle letter in the word is "i." Pride is all about "me, myself, and I."
- So even as the word "pride" is centered upon an "i," the sin itself is also centered upon "I."
- The hindrance of course to listening to Jesus is ... **These persons do not suffer from a thick skull but a hard heart.**
- **They Hear but do not take it into their heart... and it is easily stolen from them**
 - **The road or path soil shows that Satan is a great danger to those who hear indifferently...**
 - **And often causes them to oppose the Kingdom...religious leaders, Herod Pilate**
 - **They hear the word but it is not absorbed...and easily picked away**

I believe that every sin is symptomatic of pride.

It is pride that causes someone to devalue another person's life to the point of murder. It is pride that leads someone to ignore the feelings of others in the pursuit of self-gratification. It is pride that would have us believe that we don't have to submit ourselves to the sovereignty of God. It is pride that drives us to deceive others.

This is a new method Jesus started to use when preaching in public... parables

- **A parable is a story with a double meaning...one is plain and the other concealed...**
- It is hidden in plain sight...Hidden in Plain Sight**
- **It is an indirect teaching and requires the hearer to investigate further to understand the real meaning of the story.**
- **A parable reveals and hides truth at the same time...**
- **For faith is born of the tension between the revealing of truth and the veiling of the truth...**
- **Why? Faith is nourished by the search for understanding...**

Today...are you teachable...Pride is the enemy of Knowledge...ignorance is the lack of knowledge...Pride is the refusal to learn...Pride thinks learning ended sometime in the past