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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

ARE YOU GOOD GROUND?

In Luke 8: 5-15 Jesus tells a parable which begins with the words, “a sower went forth to sow his seed.” Jesus speaks of four different types of soil upon which the seed fell. The wayside soil, the rocky soil, the thorny soil, and the good ground. The first three soils did not produce a harvest. The seed that fell on the wayside soil was stepped on and eaten by birds. The seed that fell on the rocky ground sprang up but was quickly killed by the sun. The seed that fell on the thorny ground was choked out by the thorns. Only the seed that fell on the good ground produced an abundant harvest.

In explaining the meaning of the parable Jesus said that the seed is the “Word of God” (Luke 8:11) The four types of soil represented four different responses to the hearing of the Word of God. Jesus explained, “Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience” (Luke 8:12-15).

What is necessary to making the proper response to the Word of God? According to Jesus, a noble (honest) and good heart will lead to that proper response. But is just hearing the word enough? No. Jesus said that keeping it and bearing fruit with patience is essential. This is what is necessary to producing the fruit that leads to eternal life.

What type of soil represents you? Have you allowed the devil to take the word out of your heart which results in unbelief? Did you receive the Word with joy only to become unfaithful and fruitless? Have you allowed the cares, riches, and pleasures of sin to choke out the Word? Or do you possess a noble and good heart bearing fruit with patience as a faithful servant of your Lord? The choice is yours. We plead with you to obey God’s Word and live as that good ground so that heaven will be your eternal home. Visit us online at greenplainchurchofchrist.org or call 270-978-7569.