

THE PRECIOUS SEED

Psa. 126: 5 -6

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. These verses are talking about a poor farmer who has had a very bad harvest, a very scanty portion of grain for food, and now the seed time has come.
2. He must take from the little seed he has and plant another crop, even though it does not look promising.
3. He must sow, or else despair and perish.
4. He sows his precious seed with a heart filled with sorrow and eyes filled with tears.
5. The appointed weeks of harvest come and the grain is very productive:
 - (1) He reaps in joy.
 - (2) With rejoicing he brings in his sheaves.
6. There is precious seed revealed in the New Testament:
 - (1) The parable of the sower -- Luke 8: 5 - 9
 1. The seed is the word of God -- Luke 8:11
 2. It is an incorruptible seed -- I Pet. 1: 23.
 3. It is a never-dying seed -- I Pet. 1:25.

I. THE PRECIOUS SEED MUST BE SOWN

1. No harvest without sowing.
 - (1) We reap what we sow -- Gal. 6: 7 - 8.
 - (2) Haggai asks the question, "*Is the SEED yet in the barn?*" --Hag. 2:19.
 1. There can be no crop with the seed in the barn.
 2. We cannot expect people to be saved when we leave the seed in the barn.
 3. Many members of the church want the church to grow, but never sow any seed.
 - (3) There must be laborers before there can be a harvest -- Matt. 9: 37 - 38.
 - (4) The sower went forth to sow the seed -- Matt. 13:3; Luke 8:5.
 - (5) Paul said he planted the seed and God gave the increase -- I Cor. 3:6; Isa. 55:11.
 - (6) The precious seed is to be planted in all nations -- Matt. 28: 19 - 20.
 - (7) It is to be planted in the heart of every person -- Mk. 16:15 - 16.

II. THE PURPOSE OF SOWING THE SEED

1. To produce fruit.
2. There is no crop without the sowing of seed.
3. There will be no Christians without the preaching and teaching of the Word.
 - (1) Pentecost -- Acts 2:41
 - (2) The word of God increased -- Acts 6:7.
 - (3) Samaria -- Acts 8:12.
 - (4) Eunuch -- Acts 8:35.
 - (5) Cornelius -- Acts 11:14.
4. The seed will produce after its kind -- Gal. 6:7.
 - (1) It will produce the kingdom of Christ -- Matt. 13: 19; 16: 18 - 19.

- (2) It will produce only Christians -- Acts 11:26.
- (3) It will produce the New Birth -- I Pet. 1:23.
- (4) It will produce growth -- I Pet. 2:2.

III. THE SOILS SET FORTH IN THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

1. Jesus knew in sowing the seed there would be many failures.
2. He knew we would need all the help and the encouragement possible when we saw the failures.
3. So, it was partly to this end that Jesus spake the parable of the sower.
4. He, in the parable, has presented plainly and clearly success and failure, and has explained the causes and conditions that attend them.
5. The success of the sowing depends in a great measure on the soil into which the SEED is sown:
 - (1) The soil must be prepared or the seed will fail -- Ezra 7:10; Jer. 1:10; Luke 8:15.
6. There are four kinds of HEARERS:
 1. The WAY-SIDE soil:
 - (1) Matt. 13:19 -- He hears but does not understand.
 - (2) Mark 4:15 -- Satan comes immediately and removes the word.
 - (3) This soil is unbroken and unprepared.
 - (4) This is a dishonest, prejudiced, and indifferent heart.
 - (5) The way-side heart represents a large class in every community.
 2. The STONY-GROUND soil -- Matt. 13: 20 - 21.
 - (1) The soil is on top of a rock foundation.
 - (2) A few inches of rich soil and then a rock.
 - (3) The SEED springs into life almost immediately in this soil, but under the hot sun the plant soon dies.
 - (4) This represents SHALLOW people who hear the gospel -- it reaches them and at once moves them.
 - (5) These people have not counted the cost -- Luke 14: 28- 33.
 - (6) When tribulation or persecution comes they are offended -- they fail.
 - (7) These are shallow, emotional people moved by sentiment.
 3. The THORNY soil:
 - (1) Matt. 13:22
 - (2) Mark. 4:19
 - (3) Luke 8:14
 - (4) The Word is choked in his life by:
 1. The care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches.
 2. The lusts of others things.
 3. Pleasures of this life.
 - (5) This man's interests are badly divided; he gives the world the greater part of his attention.
 - (6) This man is double-minded; his heart has mixed motives -- James 1:8; 4: 8
 4. The GOOD soil:
 - (1) Matt. 13:23 "*understandeth it*"
 - (2) Mark 4:20 "*receives it*"
 - (3) Luke 8: 15 -- honest and good heart -- "*keeps it*"

- (4) This man gives the Word the first place in his life, and at no time allows other interests to interfere with his growth and progress.
- (5) The seed has no competition.
- 5. Jesus emphasized three things about sowing the precious seed:
 - (1) The special advantage there is in the preparation of the soil for seed.
 - (2) Hasty and premature action does not ultimately succeed.
 - (3) To make Christianity a success one must not allow himself to become deeply entangled with:
 - 1. The cares of this world.
 - 2. The pleasure of this life.
 - 3. The deceitfulness of riches.
 - 4. One must make his religion his primary interest -- Matt. 6:33.

Preached at Underwood Hts. 1981