

## Preparing the Ground

Mar 4:3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

Mar 4:4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

Mar 4:5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

Mar 4:6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

Mar 4:7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

Mar 4:8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

When we read this parable we tend to be focused on the ground. The type of soil that the seed will land on will determine the growth of the seed. It is important to recognize the soil. It is good for us to know that each person the seed is cast to is going to have different soil. It is also good for us to recognize that the type of seed that is sown is the type of crop you will get in return.

The book of Matthew when talking about this parable also talked about that the sower went out and used good seed but that the enemy came and planted weeds in with his good seed. So the type of seed is important that we start with as well.

It is even more important for us to make sure what kind of soil we have in our own life that will effect our seed we cast.

The opening parable has had many sermons preached from these verses of scriptures. One aspect that we often overlook in this set of scriptures is the very first one.

Mar 4:3 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

The sower we are told went out to sow. Now the sower had some preparation that he needed to do before he went out into the field. Just like the present day farmer has some preparation to do before

he goes into the field. The sower and the farmer has to make sure that their equipment is ready and operating efficiently.

The farmer has to make sure that his tractor is ready. He has to make sure that his disc is ready to break the ground. He has to make sure that his planter is working and sowing the seed evenly across all the ground. The preparation is needed to sow seed effectively and to maximize the harvest.

Church just like the farmer has to prepare we have to prepare in our walk with God.

We need to have a dedicated prayer life. We need to not just have a now I lay me down to sleep prayer life. We need to have a time that we find that prayer closet. That quiet time that we can get away and focus just on talking with God. Prayer was paramount in the early church and it is just as important today. Jesus taught us how to pray and he lead by example in his earthly ministry. The Apostles lead by example of prayer and they told the churches in the epistles many times that they needed prayer in their lives.

We need to prepare our ground with fasting. Fasting is going without food or types of food. We also have modern day media fasts, because of the sheer volume of time they consume out of our lives. Fasting is where you put the flesh in subjection to the spirit. You are denying the flesh something so that your spirit can lead. You are training your flesh to know that your spirit is in charge.

When you couple prayer and fasting it is a powerful combination that is needed in our walk with God.

We need to study the Word of God. Now this is not just coming to church on Sunday and Wednesday and listening to someone read some scriptures. The times we come on Sunday and Wednesday are for our teaching and instruction into the Word. It is by the foolishness of preaching that people are saved. So we need to come and hear the preached Word of God.

We need to have our own personal study and reading of the Word of God.

**2Ti 2:15** Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

We have to study the word of God so that we know how to divide the word of truth. Church we should be studying his Word every day even if it is one chapter a day.