

FRUIT. SOWING AND REAPING

Intro. All familiar with parable of sower. Ever compared Matt and Lk's acct. Find stages nec for successful witness. Or Days when Xn witness has come to mean anything but leading men to X. Usually takes form of leavening society. True that should let light shine. But also true that should directly witness by sowing Word. 3 stages involved in this acc to X.

I. First Stage, Lk 8

This is stage of sowing Word of God. Not living good life but disseminating Word. Preaching, witnessing, tracts etc.

- A. v. 5,12, wayside. Hard footpath that led thru field Trodden down. Hardness of heart.
- B. v. 6,13. Rock, not stony ground. Covering of moss and no possibility of putting down roots. Shallowness
- C. v.7,14. Thorns. Thorns burned but roots remained and sprang up again. Worldliness.
- D. v.8,15. Good ground. Distinguishing mark is fruit.

Point: Takes a lot of sowing to get a few results.

Illus. planting 4 kernels of corn. 1 for birds, beasts, ground, you.

Illus. lots of tracts, testimony. Can witness at wrong time, but don't let that be an excuse for never doing it. Not negative--I'll witness if He leads, but I'll witness unless He leads not. Results up to God; sowing to us.

II. Second Stage, Matt 13:1-23. Diff. occasion prob. All those in step 1 heard Word. None ignorant. They in turn are sown into world for testimony, 13:38 and correct reading in vv. 19,20,22-23.

- A. Hardened heart is testimony to hardened heart, 19.
- B. Shallow one produces shallowness. Dead breeds death Note how unstable and scatterbrained, 21.
- C. Worldly more worldly, 22.
- D. Fruitful one sown, too, 23. When sow fruit what is produced. Same thing sown. When sow Xn he produces other Xns.

Point: Lots of opposition to leading others to X. Devil, 19, flesh, 21; world, 22.

III. Third stage, Lk 8:15.

Produce fruit. 2 things nec. *Cultivating*

A. Purpose. Honest and good heart.
Heart is big word--means whole aim of life.
Honest means good for something. Opp. is good for nothing.
Godd means good. Purpose must be high and holy.
I'm sure you're here with such.

B. ~~zBazzzaz~~ Pattern. *Practice*
~~Endurance~~ Hear and keep Word of God.

C. Patience. Endurance. *(P's example - 2 Cor 4:12:12)*
How?

- 1. Be sure you're in will of God, Heb 10:36.
- 2. Learn from troubles, Rom 5:3-4; Jas 1:3. *- of v. 13*
- 3. Keep hope bright, Rom ~~2:24~~ 8:25; 2 Thess 3:5.
- 4. Use the Scriptures, Rom 15:4. *of v. 14*
- 5. Look to God, Rom 15:5.

Concl. For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ~~des~~ desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might acc to His glorious power unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness.

Col. 1:9-11.

IV *Just - Fertilizing* - *fruit more* - *want to know will of God*
much - prayer - to learn
will of God

come his grace *had that* *was* *Paul* *great* *13th* *Paul* *S. Paul, Ant.*