

The Soil of My Heart.

Hope you remember the message of Resurrection.

Being born again, itself is an act of Resurrection, coming into newness of life. All things are made new. II Corinthians 5,17. So what next.

Salvation is not an event of a moment. It is a lifetime process. The real challenge starts after the Resurrection, ie after becoming a new Christian.

Jesus in His own unique, simple way flashes light on the eternal truths of the stages of salvation through His witty parables.

Jesus speaks about the parable of the sower and the seed. This parable should be of paramount importance because Mathew, Mark and Luke have recorded the parable almost verbatim.

Mathew 13 :3-23 Mark 4 :3-20

Luke 8 : 4-15

Our hearts can be in any one of these stages

Seed by the way

As the sower goes carrying his seed, some fall by the way side. This seed is totally consumed by the birds of the air. There is no hope of growth and for this hidden truth, Jesus Himself lends the interpretation. Seed is the word of God, and satan himself plucks away the word of God, when it is first sown in our hearts. Mathew 13 : 19 ; Luke 8 : 12.

Not only that satan also clandestinely plants tares(weeds) along with sown seeds of grain.

This can be true in our early Christian lives, we may wonder is this Christian Promise true. Can Christ alone be the way? What about all that I believed so far? But amidst such doubts we still have to trust the word of God dismissing the lies and deception of the devil.

Seed on Rocks

Jesus now speaks about the seeds falling on the rocks. Here we see the seed grows and flourishes in the beginning but when the sun beats hard, the plant withers and becomes fruitless. The reason being the plant has no water and hence no deep root.

Jesus interprets this condition as the problems, temptations that come by accepting the word of God. Jesus underlines the truth that accepting the word of God is not always a bed of roses, but troubles may come courting. Mathew 13 : 20-21 : Luke 8 : 13

This could be anyone's problem yours or mine. We may certainly have troubles because we have chosen to follow Jesus, but to stand amidst this is to root ourselves deep in the word of God. Paul writes to the Ephesians(5,26), *that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.* The word of God is water for our heart. If we've become so dry let us ask God to pour out His water into our hearts. Read Psalm 1 again. Those who meditate day and night the word of God, are like trees planted by the streams, they do not wither, their leaves are green and give fruit in season. Also check out Jeremiah 5 : 26

Seed on Thorns

This is another stage in our lives. We may not have trouble, but we might be entangled in the affairs of the world. Carnality is a major problem , an area of warfare for most Christians. When the seed grows among thorns, the worries of the world, the lust and desire for things worldly choke our spiritual growth.

Our soul gets bogged down by the mud of this world. This body craves to get back to its element the mud and desires the things of this world. This chokes the soul always desiring to fly towards the Lord its maker. This was the cry of David as well. He prays, *My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!*

To counter our body craving for the lusts of the flesh, we need the fire of the spirit of God to fall on our lives and burn away the dust and the mud which clings

to our soul. We need the fire that came down on the altar that Elijah built and the Fire which licked the mud and stones as well.

Then the fire of the LORD fell and consumed the burnt offering and the wood and the stones and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. 1 Kings 18 : 38.

Seed on Good Soil.

This is what we have to aspire for, crossing the rocky ground and the thorny ground, we should lay our heart open to the dealings of God in our lives. Just as the potter who stamps the clay, the Lord should keep on breaking our hearts to turn it into good soil. A good soil is always ploughed deep. So when God desires to have a good crop/ harvest from our lives, He first breaks us and ploughs us so that we be fruitful for our Master and when He comes into our lives He should be pleased by our fruits. Our fruits here signify both our inner beauty ie fruit of the spirit and fruit bearing ie bringing many people to glory.

Come, my beloved,

let us go out into the fields and lodge in the villages;
let us go out early to the vineyards and see whether the vines have budded,
whether the grape blossoms have opened and the pomegranates are in bloom.

Song of Songs 7 : 11.

Dear Lord break our hearts so that we become good soil where Your Word will take root and grow in glory, bearing fruit and bringing many many thousands to glory. Lord give us the grace to lay our hearts open to you that Your hand may break our hearts and be ploughed with a sillion. Hold our hearts Lord. Make them bear fruit for you within and without. In Jesus precious name. Amen.