

CAPTURED BY THE WORD PRT 8

Lets go straight into the word

Matthew 13:1 In that day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the seaside. 2 And great crowds were gathered to Him, so that He went into a boat and sat. And all the crowd stood on the shore. 3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth. And they sprang up immediately, because they had no deepness of earth. 6 And the sun rising, they were scorched, and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns. And the thorns sprung up and choked them. 8 And some fell on the good ground and yielded fruit, indeed one a hundredfold, and one sixty, and one thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.

- 2 Weeks ago, we began exploring the whole concept of how one ought to respond to the word.
- This morning we are doing part 2 of **HOW TO RESPOND TO THE WORD**. We learnt that the way you respond to the word determines the level of its fruitfulness in your life.
- Let's recap – we learnt that there are 4 ways in which one can respond to the word. The way you respond is largely dependent on the state of your heart.

1. Soil type 1: The Highway soil

2. Soil Type 2: The stony soil

Matthew 13:22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

3. Soil Type 3: The thorny soil

- The thorny hearer is better than both the highway hearer and the stony hearer. In the eyes of many people, this hearer does not cast away his or her profession when he is under
- The thorny hearer struggles with one major issue in his life; he struggles with the cares of this world – these are the thorns that choke the life out of the plant.
- The thorny hearer, seats under the ministry of the word but from time to time, his mind wonders about – he thinks about the rent that has not been paid, he thinks about how he is going to finalize that business deal, he thinks about his timeshare in Balito.
- If you are to visit a field that has a crop and thorns are growing together, you will find that thorns entangle, trouble and scratch the crop.

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- Cares (fees, food, shelter, cars etc) of this world when pursued outside of the word will hinder you from profiting from the word of God. The cares of this world are part and parcel of the life under the earth and no believer can say they are not impacted by them.
- There has always been a high temptation for people to worry about this life and in fact, almost every person is worried about life in one way or the other

Matthew 6: 28 And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, 29 yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Worrying about stuff eats up your energy which should be spent in divine things.

3.1 Signs that show that you are being affected by the cares of this world:

- Possessing selfish ambitions - wishing to possess or achieve so many things in a short time
 - A lack of achievement leads to discontentment, ungratefulness, and thinking that God has not done enough for you.
 - Coveting other people's achievements
 - Shunning to contribute financially to God's work and general stinginess
 - A disregard for times of prayer, Bible study, fasting, fellowshiping, evangelism, etc
- Cares of this world sidetrack us from duty, distract us in duty, and quenches our passion for the things of God.
 - One would think that the moment one gets some promotion at work, one gets a business deal and the cares of this world are taken care off, then all is well – this person should become fruitful I the word.
 - Unfortunately, the moment one has made progress, a thorny hearer is overtaken by overly trusting in his newly found riches – these thorns are called the deceitfulness of riches.

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- Wealth and riches present another set of thorns in ones heart. That is why Jesus said it is easier for a camel to enter through the hole a needle than it is for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God.
- A thorny hearer convinces himself that he does not need faith anymore to make it in life – there is an overly dependents on his riches to supply his needs.
- It is not so much the riches themselves but it is the deception of trusting in riches that makes the word unfruitful.

4. Soil Type 4: The good soil

Matthew 13:23 But that sown on the good ground is this: he who hears the Word and understands; who also bears fruit and produces one truly a hundredfold; and one sixty; and one thirty.

- Whenever good word finds good soil, the result is always fruit – the distinction between good soil and all the other three types of soil is the ability to produce fruit.
- Fruit distinguishes true Christians from hypocrites or pseudo-Christians.

John 15:16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

- The good ground hearer has all the problems of the other hearers (levels of hardness, stones and thorns), the difference is that a good hearer does not allow those issues to hinder his fruitfulness.
- True believers are not entirely free from the residue of sin but are gladly freed from its reign.

4.1 What are the signs of a good soil hearer?

- Good soil hearer hears the word and seeks to understand it and gets himself concerned about it.
- A Good soil hearer openly accepts the word and leaves no room in her heart to debate the truthfulness of the word. This person does not argue with the word.
- A good soil hearer obeys the word of God and the word is his master and he is its servant.

John 14:23 NLT Jesus replied, “All who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come and make our home with each of them.

- Good soil hearer becomes fruitful because she puts the word into practice and has an attitude that says “If He said it, it settles it”.

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James 1:22 But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- Every person that runs his life in line with the received word will always produce a word type of fruit.
- A good soil hearer lives in agreement with the word, confesses the word and consults the word.

Luke 1:38 ESV And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

- A good soil hearer applies his mind on the word and takes time to search the deep things of the word through meditation.

Psalm 1:1 Blessed is the man who has not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, and has not stood in the way of sinners, and has not sat in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight is only in the Law of Jehovah; and in His Law he meditates day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivulets of water that brings forth its fruit in its seasons, and its leaf shall not wither, and all which he does shall be blessed.