

Who Do You Say That I Am?

Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expository
Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**

150- Jesus Begins Teaching in Parables- Part 6
The Parable of the Four Kinds of Soil- Part 5

Church April 12, 2026

Matthew 13:1-9;18-23

1 That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea.

2 And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

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 beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

5 Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

6 But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

8 And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

9 He who has ears, let him hear."

18 "Hear then the parable of the sower.

19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

20 The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

21 yet he has no firm root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.

22 And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

23 And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."

*To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Beginning today- we will pick back up on our verse-by-verse “Journey” through the **Gospel of Matthew**. Two Lord’s Days ago, I *completed* the Series of Sermons on “*What a Spiritually healthy Church Looks Like*”- which examined **Titus 2**. And so, today, I’m going to *continue* the Series on the “*Parables of Jesus*” from Matthew’s Gospel Record in Chapter 13- by looking again at the “*Parable of the Four Kinds of Soils*”.

Now as I previously told you- the Reason Jesus spoke to the people in Parables- was so that **ONLY** those chosen for Salvation would hear and understand. And so, please look at **Matthew 13:10-13**:

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

11 Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

12 "For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

... and of course that almost completely **EXCLUDED** the Pharisees!

And then, once again, Jesus proved His “*Messiahship*” by *equating* His speaking in Parables with the Fulfillment of what the Prophet foretold (hundreds of years earlier) in **Isaiah 6** about the true “*Anointed One*”- in **Matthew 13:14&15**:

14 In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

... and that proved two things:

1. This was God’s Will from the very Beginning

2. Jesus Himself is truly the Focus and Fulfillment of Isaiah's Prophecies and NOT the Nation of Israel

And then, Jesus told us how "Blessed" we are that we *can* see; and hear; and understand; and believe; and obey what God- in all three Persons- is saying in verses 16&17:

16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.

17 For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

So, Parables are truly the "*Line of Demarcation*" or the "*Dividing Line*" between those God has sovereignly chosen for Salvation and those whom God has "*left to themselves*". And that is WHY we need to go over these Parables and understand them.

Now, most of the Time, Jesus did NOT explain what the Parables meant. He simply taught them and left them with the people to struggle with. But here in **Matthew 13**- Jesus explained this "*Parable about the four Kinds of Soils*" and the "*Parable concerning the Wheat and the Tares*".

Here in **Matthew 13**- Jesus is teaching the people what the "*Kingdom of Heaven*" is. And to do that- Jesus began teaching the people in Parables. And this was very Odd. Because a Rabbi teaching the Jewish people in Parables was NOT new at all. Those Leaders had been utilizing Parables for Centuries. The Difference between what the Rabbis did and what Jesus was doing- through His Parables- was that the Rabbis used very *familiar* Things to illustrate other things that were NOT familiar- so the people *could* understand what they were talking about-*easier* and *better*.

But what Jesus was doing here was using very *familiar* things to illustrate *unfamiliar* things- so that ONLY the Elect would understand. So, Jesus- using Parables- was a form of Judgment against unbelieving Israel and the Jews who *refused* to embrace Jesus as God! And it is a form of Judgment today- as many people in the modern Church, who lay claim to be saved- either do NOT understand the Parables at all- or they botch them up so badly that what they get is not even in the same Universe as what Jesus actually said!

Now there are seven Parables in **Matthew 13**:

1. The Parable of the four Kinds of Soils (v. 3-9; 18-23)
2. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares (v.24-30;36- 43)

3. The Parable of the Mustard Seed (31&32)
4. The Parable of the Leaven (v. 33)
5. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure (v. 44)
6. The Parable of the Costly Pearl (v. 45&46)
7. The Parable of the Dragnet (v. 47-50)

... and then Jesus gave a very short “*mini-Parable*” in verses 51&52.

And the Subject of all of those Parables is the “*Kingdom of Heaven*”- in What it is; *How* we are to *understand* this new Kingdom; and *how* genuinely saved people will relate to it.

Now the Fact that Jesus had to use Parables to explain to His Disciples (and us) about the “*Kingdom of Heaven*” shows us that *this* “Kingdom” will be *unlike* any other Kingdom on earth; and will be completely *distinct* from any other Kingdom throughout all of human History. And that means that *this* Kingdom is totally DIFFERENT from the historical “*Kingdom of Israel*” that all those men- standing there that Day- listening to Jesus teach- would have been very familiar with.

And we also have to take note that- *normally*- nobody has to explain WHAT a natural and earthly Kingdom is- to anyone. Natural Kingdoms- throughout all of History- are always the same. Yet Jesus used eight different Parables- in this single Chapter- to teach His Disciples (and us) WHAT the “*Kingdom of Heaven*” is- and how saved people will relate to it.

Another important Aspect of this Teaching is that, in all these Parables- Jesus is teaching about a “*Kingdom*”. And that means what Jesus is bringing into the World- through His Life; Death; and Resurrection- will NOT be a “*Democracy*”; nor a “*Constitutional Republic*”; nor a “*Military Junta*”; nor a “*Caliphate*”. And that is very Important- because, throughout the world- the peoples are moving more and more *toward* “*Democracies*” and *abandoning* other forms of Governments. And Democracies are attractive- precisely because, in a Democracy- the people are “King”- the people rule!

So, in that respect, what Jesus is instituting will NOT follow that Path. Now throughout History- a “*Monarchy*”; or a “*Kingdom*”; or a “*Dictatorship*” is the most *efficient* form of Government. But the Drawback, of course, is- *sooner or later*- that *efficient* Government turns *Oppressive* toward the people over which it dominates. And so, Kingdoms; Monarchies; or Dictatorships don’t work- *long term*- precisely because ALL men are “*Fallen*” and there isn’t anyone “fit” to be a King! And that’s why Democracies were created.

But Jesus is God! And so, in addition to being “All-Powerful” (Omnipotent)- the King over this Kingdom is Kind and Merciful and Loving and Pure- precisely because He is perfectly Sinless!

And that means that the “Kingdom of Heaven” or the “Kingdom of God” is a “*benevolent Monarchy*” or a “*benevolent Dictatorship*”- in fact, it will be the single MOST benevolent Dictatorship that has ever existed- because Jesus is God! But because He is God- this Kingdom will NOT be run- based on the “*Will of the people*”- but rather on the “*Will of a single Man*”- the “*King*”- the “*Lord*”; the one, single perfect “*Monarch*”- Jesus Christ!

Now this Parable of the four Kinds of Soils is designed to help us to understand the Truth about Sovereign Election and the *invisible* but *invincible* Work of God in Salvation. The Soil in each Example represents the *spiritual* Condition of Individuals- who ALL have the Word of the Gospel- sown into them. Now what is interesting is that in all four of these Examples:

- The Sower is the SAME
- The Seed is the SAME
- Each Group HEARS the Gospel

... yet ONLY one Group is saved!

Three out of these four Groups, *who actually hear the Gospel*- DO NOT become saved! And they DO NOT come into Salvation because the “make-up” or the “Condition” that ALREADY exists in those three Groups- CANNOT Repent; Believe; and BE saved!

In other words, the Composition of the Soil in those three Groups is NOT conducive for Salvation. So, unless the natural and normal Composition of the Soil is radically transformed- those three Groups will NEVER be saved! Another Way of understanding this is to say SOMETHING has to happen to transform the Condition of the Soil- FIRST- or those people (whom the three kinds of Soil represent) will hear the Gospel and yet, remain Lost!

But what is NOT true about this Parable is the Notion that some people- represented by the fourth Group- are just simply “better people” and have some “internal Goodness” about them that allows for them to hear the Gospel; believe the Gospel; and be saved. That is NOT what Jesus is teaching here.

No, there are NO people anywhere on this earth, who are just naturally and normally inclined to believe God and be saved. Those people do NOT exist. ALL of Human is “Fallen”; “Lost”; and ALL of Humanity are Sinners- rushing headlong into eternal Damnation! Please look at God’s own Declaration about this in **Romans 3:9-18:**

**9 What then? Are we better than they? Not at all; for we have already charged that both Jews and Greeks are all under sin;
10 as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;**

**11 THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;
12 ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."
13 "THEIR THROAT IS AN OPEN GRAVE, WITH THEIR TONGUES THEY KEEP DECEIVING," "THE POISON OF ASPS IS UNDER THEIR LIPS";
14 "WHOSE MOUTH IS FULL OF CURSING AND BITTERNESS";
15 "THEIR FEET ARE SWIFT TO SHED BLOOD,
16 DESTRUCTION AND MISERY ARE IN THEIR PATHS,
17 AND THE PATH OF PEACE THEY HAVE NOT KNOWN."
18 "THERE IS NO FEAR OF GOD BEFORE THEIR EYES."**

NOBODY is born saved; NOBODY is “Innocent”; and NOBODY has a “leg up” on anyone else- as it pertains to Salvation. EVERY human- from EVERY background; EVERY Ethnicity; EVERY Nationality; EVERY Race; EVERY Culture; and who is born to EVERY Woman- is born with the very SAME “Sin Nature” of Adam; AND is born as being personally Guilty of the Sin of Adam!

And that is WHY we MUST all personally experience the Miracle of the New Birth. Because it is in the sovereign “giving of new, spiritual Life”- that God *radically; eternally; supernaturally; instantly; and miraculously* transforms the fallen human Nature into one that naturally and normally loves God and that loves the Things of the Spirit of God! It is in the New Birth where God opens our blinded eyes; unstops our deaf ears; takes out of us a stony heart; and gives us a heart of Flesh- that is both willing and able to believe!

And that is what Jesus represented in the fourth Kind of Soil- one that He called, “Good Soil” or Soil that He alone has made to be receptive to the Gospel!

So, *prior* to the sovereign Work of God in *transforming* us and making us “*Fit for the Gospel*”- every one of us were in one of the three Kinds of Soil in this Parable. And that brings us to the *third* kind of Soil, and that's the “*weedy or the thorny Soil*”. Please read **verses 7&22** again with me:

**7 Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.
22 And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**

Now back in the 1st Century in Isarel- when a Farmer would plow his Field- there would be Roots; and Weeds; and Thorns in the Ground. And the word that

was translated here as “Thorns” is the very *same* word that was used for the Thorns they put on the precious Brow of our Lord Jesus at His Crucifixion.

But no Farmer in their right mind would ever want a Field full of Thorns. Yet Thorns have been a part of every-day Life for Centuries because God cursed the Ground because of Adam’s Sin. And so, Weeds and Thorns are *much more* plentiful; and *much more* hardy; and *much stronger* than the good plants! And those Thorns will literally choke out the fragile good Seed that's planted there.

And in verse 22- Jesus said this third group of people “hear the Word” as it is sown! But then Jesus said-

... and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

... and over in the “sister Passage” of **Mark 4:19**- God’s Word says, **but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**

... so, while Matthew listed two kinds of Thorns- John Mark wrote down three kinds of Thorns that have the Power to literally “choke the Word of God”- until the holy, precious, and infallible Word of the living God becomes “Unfruitful” in the Lives of this third Group!

1. The Worries of the World
2. The Deceitfulness of Riches
3. The Desires for other Things

.. and, collectively, these three kinds of “Thorns” are what the Bible teaches is “*Worldliness*”.

The first Soil was Hard; the second Soil was *Emotional* or *Superficial*. But this third kind of Soil is *Worldly*. And Worldliness is *unique* from the other two kinds of Soil- because, on the Surface- Worldliness doesn’t look *overtly* or *blatantly* Evil.

For Example, the first Thorn is NOT the “Sin” of this World- but simply the “Worry” of the World. The second Thorn is NOT a “Love” for Riches but the “Deceitfulness” of Riches. And the third Thorn is kind of a catch-all Category that has to do with the various “Desires for other things- *anything*- besides God”.

So, this is not a “hard-hearted Person” nor a “shallow or emotional Person”. This Soil looks Good. I mean, its not Perfect- but it’s better than the other two. Yet Jesus said there are all kinds of Impurities in it. There's other Life in this Soil

that's much more *advanced*; much *stronger*; and more *natural* to this Soil than the Seed of the Gospel.

To this third kind of Soil- the Seed of the Word of God is “Unnatural”. God’s Word is Foreign to the already established Weeds and Thorns of this Soil. The Good Seed simply CAN’T survive in this worldly Heart. Jesus put it this Way- no one can serve God and Wealth. And this is the great Tragedy of Worldliness that God dealt with me about back several years ago- that I preached a series of Sermons about “*Whatever Happened to Worldliness?*”

In fact, I would suggest that there are NOT very many people today, who make up the modern Church, who are 50 years old or less that have ever even heard of “*Worldliness*” or who have ever been warned about its *Insidiousness*. I would even go so far as to say that most of the young people in the modern Church would probably think that “*Worldliness*” is actually a “Good Thing” and something they should *pursue* and *adopt* into their own Lives.

Yet, Ian Murray, the great English preacher and theologian and the editor of *The Banner of Truth*, wrote about Worldliness and said,

“Worldliness is departing from God. It is a “man centered” way of thinking; It proposes objectives which demand no radical breach from man’s fallen nature. It judges the importance of things by the present and material results. It weighs success by numbers. It covets human esteem. It wants no unpopularity. It knows no Truth for which it is worth suffering. It declines to be a fool for Christ’s sake. Worldliness is the mind- set of the unregenerate. It adopts idols. It is at war with God.”

So, Worldliness is not blatant- in your face Sin. It isn’t the disgusting Wickedness that most everybody- even good Muslims and good Mormons would object to. Worldliness is accepted by many- there isn’t much Social Outrage at Worldliness. Worldliness isn’t Ugly on the Surface. In fact- it is actually being promoted by many in the modern Church.

Worldliness is the Worries and the Riches and Pleasures of this Life- and that’s the key- “this Life”. This third kind of Soil is consumed with the temporal; consumed with the World; consumed with Pleasures and Longings and Desires and Ambitions and Career and Money and Home and Car and Prestige and of Getting Ahead and of “Keeping up with the Jones’s”; and of not being “left behind” as measured by the World. Worldly people are concerned about “fitting in” with the people of this pagan World and of NOT “standing out” and NOT being ostracized and left out of the Crowd!

And Jesus said that worldly people buy into the false Promises that Money makes. And they buy into the false Promises that material Possessions make. And

they buy into the false Promises that sinful people make. And they sell their Stake in the Kingdom and buy a Stake with Money and with the World! And Jesus said those people are deceived by those Promises!

But to get a Concept of the Horror of Worldliness- turn quickly with me to **1John 2:15-17:**

15 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

17 The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

Now I would remind you that I didn't write this Passage. God the Holy Spirit "moved" on the Apostle John- some 2,000 years ago to pen this down. But I would draw you Attention to the last part of verse 15 that should *awaken* your Soul to the great Danger of Worldliness:

... If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Now, on the Surface, this is a very Strange Statement. I thought we were *supposed* to love the World. I mean, God does. **John 3:16** says,

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

... and when God finished creating the World- He looked at all that He had done and **Genesis 1:31** says,

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

.. so, WHY are we forbidden to love what God loves and what God said was "very good"?

What is so Bad about Dirt and Trees and Water and Grass and Animals and the Sky that we are warned to NOT love it? And even though there is great Sin in this fallen World- didn't Jesus *command* us to love our Neighbor to the same Degree that we love *ourselves* (**Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 19:19**)? And didn't He also *command* us to even love our Enemies (**Matthew 5:44**)? So, what's up with this?

The “*World*” that we are NOT to love- is the “*world System*” that was *designed* by fallen Man; to *benefit* fallen Man; and that operates in abject *rebellion* to God and His Word. It is NOT the created World nor even the peoples in the World. Now how do I know this to be True? Because in **1John 2:16**, the Apostle said,

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.

... those three things:

1. The Lust of the Flesh
2. The Lust of the Eyes
3. The Boastful Pride of Life

... are said to be two other things...

1. ALL that is in the World
2. Is NOT from the Father, but is from the World

Firstly, we know that the “World” John is talking about here is NOT the created World that God made because that World has many MORE things in it than just those three things. And yet, John said those three things were, “ALL that is in the World”.

Secondly, John said those three things did NOT come “**from the Father**”. In other words, God did NOT *create* those Lusts. Those Lusts *originally* came from satan’s Victory over Adam; as well as his *ongoing* War against Adam’s Seed. So, those Lusts now reside INSIDE the Flesh of fallen Man; and have to do with ONLY this fallen World; and those who are fallen themselves. But then look again at the *first part* of verse 17:

The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts...

... so, both “Worldliness” itself and the Lusts that represent it- are “passing away”.

Now this does NOT mean that when Jesus comes back- these Lusts will pass away. NO! These Lusts are already passing away- RIGHT NOW! Because Jesus has *already* come; and has *already* instituted His Kingdom in the Earth- that which pertains to the fallen World- the “world- System” is already in the process of “passing away” right now!

But then the Apostle gave us an infallible Promise at the End of

verse 17:

... but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

The Lusts of Worldliness will NOT last forever! In fact, they are passing away right now! But those who have been redeemed OUT OF the World- they will do the Will of God and they WILL live forever!

So, what John meant about us NOT “loving the World” is to NOT have- as your primary Hanking; or your primary Longing; or your primary Desire; or your primary Love- those things which gratify your Flesh. So, the “Lusts of the Flesh”- are those things that do NOT glorify God but which pander to your physical, fleshly, and sinful Appetites and Desires.

The “Lust of the Eyes” is pandering to the Desire of what you see. And the “Boastful Pride of Life” undergirds everything- so that Self-fulfillment and Self-gratification is everything to you.

And the Bible says that if you live that way- if what drives you is what your Flesh craves; and what your eyes see; and what your fleshly Pride longs for- then you do NOT know God- no matter what you claim.

The Bible teaches that genuine Believers must know how to be abased; and know how to abound. And we must know what it is to have; and what it is to NOT have. And true Believers can be Content in *whatever* State we are in- because Life isn't about “Gaining” or “Getting” as defined by the world System. And it isn't about “Achieving” or “Obtaining” the Glory of that System. And Life is NOT about being “Accepted” by the people, who are enslaved to that System.

Life is about loving God with all my Heart, Soul, Mind and Strength. And it is about loving God, and then receiving what He gives as a Gift of His Grace! So, it's a “Kingdom Mentality”- that *transcends* what the World has to offer. It's that “Single-mindedness” that the Bible speaks about. The Single-minded person, who loves God above everything else; and who can see that, above everything that God gives; or takes away; all things become a Reason for Thanksgiving!

You remember when the rich young ruler came to Jesus, it's recorded in **Matthew 19**- and he asked Jesus, “*What can I do to receive eternal life?*” And Jesus, knowing him and knowing that he loved money and was worldly- this man knew what Money could buy. You see, dear friends- nobody loves Money for Money's sake. People love Money for what Money gives to them; the Security it gives; and the Promises it makes; and how it *insulates* them from Pain and Suffering; and for what it can offer them.

So, Jesus knew that man was a “Materialist” and that he was in love with his own Ability to indulge every fleshly Desire and every visual Desire and to fulfill all of his personal Hankerings for Self-fulfillment and Self-satisfaction. And that

Desire to love Money brought about *exactly* what this Man was: Self- righteous! So, this Man was “Worldly”- this man was a “Lover of the World”. And so, Jesus said to him, “*You want to have eternal Life? Sell everything you have and take the Money and give it all to the Poor.*”

Now that's NOT how people are saved- but that was a great Test to see just how willing he was to *submit* to the Lordship of Jesus Christ; and to *totally* abandon his sinful and worldly Way of Life; and *change* his Focus from loving the World to loving God.

But the Bible says he wasn't willing. And so, he went away very Sad- because he was very Rich! He decided that he would NOT *exchange* his *temporary* Love of the World and the things of this World- *that were already passing way-* for the eternal Love of God! And that's the Issue here with this third kind of Soil!

So, when you sow the Seed of the Gospel to somebody who has this kind of Heart- it will be just that clear cut. And that is why it is so Important that we present the Gospel as not being some silly little Formula- but that we let them know right off jump street that being saved and following Jesus is about being absolutely willing to give up EVERYTHING for Jesus- up to and including our own Life!

Now some have asked me, “*Pastor Blair, why do you harp on this Issue all the Time?*” There are two Reasons:

1. The Bible *emphasizes* this Issue
2. Very few Pastors touch this Issue

... so, I am being faithful to the Scriptures; and I am NOT willing to be included in the Group of Pastors, who are “Judas Goats” and who *refuse* to warn the sheep about the Dangers of Worldliness and just allow them to perish! Now please turn with me to **1Timothy 6:3-12:**

3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,

4 he is conceited *and* understands nothing; but he has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, out of which arise envy, strife, abusive language, evil suspicions,

5 and constant friction between men of depraved mind and deprived of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain.

6 But godliness *actually* is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment.

7 For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.

8 If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

9 But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.

10 For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

11 But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, perseverance *and* gentleness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

So, the Bible is faithful to warn us about the Danger of “Worldliness”. Because if anyone loves this fallen, “world System”- the Bible says that the Love of the Father is not in you. And that means you aren’t saved!

So, on the Surface- it looks like this third kind of Soil is ready to receive the Seed of the Gospel. But this Soil is cluttered up with the Lusts of this present evil World. And that's NOT the kind of Soil that the Seed of the Gospel can survive in. And so, NO godly or lasting Fruit can come out from this Soil- NOT because there is anything wrong with the Sower and NOT because there is anything Wrong with the Seed. It's simply because the Soil is already filled with Impurities- the Lusts of this World- that are NOT from the Father and that are passing away!

And as long as those Thorns are there- they will grow *faster* than the Seed of God’s Word- because they've *already* established themselves. The strong Weeds and Thorns are native to that Soil while the Word of God is NOT native to that Soil. God’s Word is NOT natural to that Soil- the Weeds and Thorns are! That's their Home! The Sinner is at Home with his Sin; and his Sin finds a Home in him!

That’s the Danger of Worldliness! And as long as those Thorns are allowed to live there- they will grow and tear and lacerate the fragile Seed- until it simply CANNOT survive! And look what Jesus said about this from verse :

... and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Human being worry about what they love. So, a sinful “Love” for the World causes the “*Worry of the World*”. That’s the “*Lust of the Flesh*” that John warned us about. And a sinful “Love” for Riches- will deceive you. And that’s the “*Lust of the Eyes*”. And these along with the “*Lust of other things*” will team up and

literally “Choke” the Word of God- to the degree that the Word of the living God will become Unfruitful” in your Life. And THAT is the Danger of Worldliness!

So, when people ask me, “*Brother Blair, do I have to give up ALL my Sin and stop being Worldly in order to go to Heaven?*” I always answer, “*YES! That’s the very Nature of genuine Salvation- the unconditional Surrender to King Jesus as Lord and Master over your entire Life- and the total and complete ABANDONMENT of Sin and worldly Lusts! That’s what Salvation IS! Other than that- you’re just using Jesus as some kind of “cosmic Tool” to help make your Life better down here!*”

If you truly love God- why would you desire to hold on to that which God has said is NOT from the Father and is passing away at this very Moment? And if you truly love God- why would you NOT fully embrace the Promise,

... but the one who does the will of God lives forever.

... and why wouldn’t someone, who genuinely loves Jesus NOT take to heart the Warning,

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

... but that is the very Essence of what it means to be “Lost”!

So, in a nutshell, what Jesus is teaching in this Parable is that EVERYBODY’S Nature is fallen and ruined and NOBODY can change their own Nature. Nobody can rub the two sticks of their own “Self-determination and their own “Will- power” together and cause themselves to be born again. You simply CANNOT get there from here! God has to change us- Sovereignly- or we are doomed! God has to CAUSE us to be born again- or we are doomed! And God has to *forcefully; violently; and powerfully* insert Himself into our Lives; Interrupt ALL our Plans; open our blinded eyes; unstop our deaf ears; and give us a Heart that is both able and willing to repent; believe; and love God or we will remain in our Sins! And that is what Grace is! That is what Sovereign Election is! And that new, born- again Nature- is what the *fourth* Kind of Soil represents!

Amen! Let’s pray.

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.