

Heart and Soil

Pastor Bonita Joyner Shields

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“Then Jesus said to [His disciples], ‘If you can’t understand the meaning of this parable, how will you understand all the other parables?’ ” (Mark 4:13, NLT).

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The Sower, the Seed, and the Soil

Matthew 13:1-23,
Mark 4:1-20, and
Luke 8:1-15.

“Like a sower in the field, [Christ] came to scatter the heavenly grain in truth. . . . Christ, the heavenly Sower . . . left His home of security and peace, left the glory that He had with the Father before the world was, left His position upon the throne of the universe. He went forth, a suffering, tempted man; went forth in solitude to sow in tears, to water with His blood, the seed of life for a world lost” (*Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 36).

“Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. As he scattered the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up” (Mark 4:3, 4).

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“Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plan soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn’t have deep roots, it died” (Mark 4:5, 6).

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“Other seed fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants so they produced no grain” (Mark 4:7).

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“Spiritual prosperity is closed bound up with Christian liberality. The followers of Christ should rejoice in the privilege of revealing in their lives the beneficence of their Redeemer. As they give to the Lord they have the assurance that their treasure is going before them to the heavenly courts. Would men make their property secure? Let them place it in the hands that bear the marks of the crucifixion. Would they enjoy their substance? Let them use it to bless the needy and suffering.

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Would they increase their possessions? Let them heed the divine injunction, 'Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.' Proverbs 3:9, 10. Let them seek to retrain their possessions for selfish purposes, and it will be to their eternal loss. But let their treasure be given to God, and from that moment it bears His inscription" (*The Acts of the Apostles*, 344).

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“Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times” (Mark 4:8).

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- Hear God's Word
- Understand God's Word
- Accept God's Word
- Obey God's Word

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“And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns” (Philippians 1:6).

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