

## MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN # 1

### "THE SOWER"

#### I. AN ANALYSIS OF THE PARABLE (Matt.13:3-9;18-23).

- A. The sower here is Christ who began the work and then entrusted it to His servants.
- B. The seed in this parable is the Word of God (Matt.13:19; Mark 4:14; Lk.8:11).
- C. The field that Christ is referring to is the world- "anyone that heareth" (Matt 13:19). Note 13:38.
- D. The different kinds of soils where the seed falls are the different kinds of receptions by those who hear the Word of God. Notice the phrase "he that received the seed". (Matt 13:19,20,22,23).

#### II. WHAT WE CAN ANTICIPATE DURING THE COURSE OF THIS PRESENT AGE

- A. We can anticipate first of all this age to be characterized by a program of seed-sowing which is the Word of God (Mark 4:14).
- B. The second thing we can anticipate during this time is that it will be marked by opposition from the world (Matt. 13:22); from the flesh (Matt 13:21); and from the devil (Matt. 13:19; Luke 3:12),
- C. Thirdly we can expect this age to be characterized by more people hearing the Word and making shallow professions than by those who actually receive it and bear fruit- that is to be saved. Notice only a fourth part falls upon good ground. Since a fourth part is taken away by the devil, this leaves 1/2 on stony ground and among thorns or to be sown among those who make shallow professions and are not saved. From this we can safely conclude only 1/4 of those who profess to know the Lord actually know Him.
- D. We can expect this age of seed-sowing then to be characterized by no professions by some (13:19); by shallow professions by others (13:20,22) and by some true professions by others (13:23).

1. Notice some will hear and not understand as in the case of the Jews who rejected Christ (Matt.13:13,19). This group of hearers will not believe the Word of God. These will make no profession because they are hard-hearted. Their hearts are like hardened packed down soil by the wayside of a field. Because of their hardened condition the devil will take away the Word so they won't be saved (Luke 8:12). Here we note the opposition by the devil in this present age.
2. A second kind of person will hear the Word of God and make a profession which will appear genuine but it will not last (13:20,21). It will appear to be in soil in which seed will grow but he will wither away because he has no root in himself (21). This is a picture of the shallow-hearted hearer who has some sort of emotional experience and runs in the strength of the flesh until its weakness is revealed by tribulation and persecution. Here we note the opposition of the flesh to the Word of God in this present age.
3. A third kind of person who will hear the Word of God will also be a shallows-hearted hearer (13:22). This one will be like seed that fell among thorns. He will make a profession and appear also to be growing so as to produce fruit but before long the things of the world will crowd and choke out any apparent life because he has no spiritual life or strength to grow and produce. Here we note the opposition of the world to the Word of God in this present age.
4. A fourth kind of hearer will hear the Word of God and make a genuine profession (13:23). He will be like seed that fell in good ground. He will grow and become fruitful which will be the evidence of genuine spiritual life from the incorruptible seed. Notice there are three kinds of fruits produced in a Christian's life. First of all there is the fruit of converts (Rom. 1:13); secondly the fruit of Christian character (Gal. 5:22,23); and finally the fruit of Christian conduct or righteousness (Rom 6:21,22; 15:27,28; Phil. 1:11).

E, Finally from this parable we can see and anticipate that this age will be characterized by a decreasing response to the sowing of the seed (Matt.13:23). In other words there will be a decrease in the number of folks getting saved and a decrease in their fruitfulness.

### III. SOME APPLICATIONS WE CAN MAKE FROM THIS PARABLE

- A. The first application for us is to see is our responsibility in this age of seed-sowing. This is what we have been called and entrusted to do (JN. 20:21; II Cor.9:6,10).
- B. It is evident from this parable that there will be no universal reception of the Word of God, but rather most who hear it will reject it.
- C. We can expect some folks to reject the Word, some to make shallow professions but some to really get saved.
- D. We can expect opposition from the devil, the flesh, and the world to the Word of God.
- E. We can also expect to see times of testing and temptations to determine what kind of hearer we are and how we have received the Word.