

HIRAM CHURCH OF CHRIST

www.hiramchurchofChrist.com · 7660 Nebo Road, Hiram, GA 30141 · (770) 943-9977

LARGE ENOUGH TO SERVE YOU AND SMALL ENOUGH TO KNOW YOU

Vol. 16 No. 18 - May 5, 2019

"If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen."

1 Peter 4:11

"Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you." Romans 16:16

FIRST CENTURY CHURCH IN THE 21ST CENTURY

MINISTER: MELVIN J. BRYANT II





ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements: Matt Johnson
Opening Prayer: Matt Johnson
Song Leader: Devin Bryant
Second Prayer: Devin Bryant
Lord's Table: Clarence Proctor
Melvin J Bryant III
Message: Melvin J. Bryant II
Closing Prayer: Alex Johnson

Attendance

Morning Hour: TBA
Bible Class: TBA
Worship: TBA
Wednesday: TBA
Contribution: TBA

Weekly Service Times

 The Morning Hour 9:00am
 Bible Class 10:00am
 Morning Worship 11:00am
 Wed. Evening Bible Classes 7:30pm

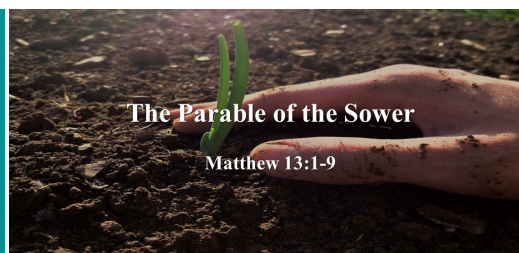
The Morning Hour

- Announcements
- Prayer
- Song
- 25 Minute Study - Rightly Dividing
- Card Writing/Mail Outs
- Prepare for 10:00am Bible Class

Missions: India & Childhaven

PLAN OF SALVATION

- ★ Taught by God - John 6:45
- ★ Believe - John 8:24
- ★ Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
(Repentance entails counting the cost)
- ★ Confess - Matthew 10:32-33
- ★ Be Baptized - Matthew 28:18-20
- ★ Live a FAITHFUL life until death - Revelation 2:10



The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-9

BIBLICAL WARNING

SUGAR-COATED PREACHING IS DANGEROUS TO YOUR SOUL.

2 Timothy 4:3-4

WHAT IF WE BEGAN TO TREAT OUR BIBLES THE WAY WE TREATED OUR CELL PHONES?

WHAT IF WE...

...carried it with us everywhere?

...turn back to get it if we forgot it?

...checked it for messages throughout the day?

...used it in case of emergencies?

...spend an hour or more each day using it?



What would our lives look like?

ONGOING HEALTH ISSUES

Lea Overton (Jeff's mother), Sebastian and Erica Suarez, Ron McCurry (shut in-visits requested), Amy Brown, Polly Tunstall (Amy's mother), Ann Phillips, Harold and Dean Reeves, Mary Brock's daughter Potts/Williams family, Kilwonia Chandler, Barbara Helton, Vera Patrick, Mary Troup, Joanie Saporito, Charlie Griffin, Patty Dale, Daniel Welker (kidney transplant), Al Gattis (COPD), Shirley Glosson (radiation), Ben Westbrooks (leukemia),

PRAYER REQUESTS

(JAMES 5:16)

- ▶ **Ellen** (member of the Westside church of Christ in Ohio) has petition our prayers due to some extreme hardships she's faced with.
- ▶ **Becky's** mom boyfriend, Randy is scheduled to have open heart surgery to repair three different problems and is in need of prayer.
- ▶ **The Webb's** daughter is doing much better with chemo treatments.
- ▶ **Carolyn** recently fractured her tibia. The doctor waned her to use a wheelchair or walker, but she has been hobbling around with them. She has been going through other health issues as well. Please keep her in your prayers.
- ▶ **Mrs. Joanie** has not been feeling well lately. Please keep her in your prayers.
- ▶ **Mary Troup** had mouth surgery and is in need of our prayers.
- ▶ **Ann Phillips** is still in need of prayer.
- ▶ **Ron McCurry** has requested continued prayers for his son in law.
- ▶ **Erica** is in need of prayer for her overall health. She appreciates the calls and prayers. Also, she has asked that we keep her sister, Ashley in prayers.
- ▶ **Patty** will be going to Kansas soon for surgery.

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & NEWS

✓ May Birthdays

Tarie - 2nd

Kenneth - 6th

Devin and Melvin - 17th

A Potluck lunch is planned at Mr. Ron's on Wednesday. His son-in-law had surgery.

✓ Anniversaries

Sebastian and Erica - 9th

Fellowship dinner is the last Sunday of each month.

✓ Local Church News.

✓ Traveling.

Sis. Pudgy, Sis. Penny, Sis. Brock

✓ Patty is in Oklahoma for a while.

✓ Hiram Church of Christ News

Melvin Bryant III will be graduating from Kennesaw State University on May 8, 2019!

“When the SEED Sits on Solid Ground” (Part I)

Matthew 13:1-9, “The Wayside Hearer”

By

Melvin J. Bryant II

A “Parable” is a story which is the vehicle of a spiritual message. *It is*, “pertaining to expressions which are not to be understood literally, but symbolically or figuratively—‘symbolically, allegorically, figuratively, so to speak.’” (Louw, J. P., & Nida, E. A. electronic ed. of the 2nd edition., Vol. 1, p. 390).” Jesus spoke to the people in “Parables,” *However*, the question is, “WHY did He speak to them in Parables?” The Answer lies in Matthew 13:11, “He answered and said to them, “BECAUSE it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.”

- The “Mystery” the (secret) of the kingdom of heaven is given to the saints! Paul said in Ephesians 1:9, “having made known to US the MYSTERY of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.” (cf. Ephesians 3:3-4). And that MYSTERY can be Understood!
- So, Jesus spoke to them in “Parables” because it served TWO purposes!
 - (1) It had been given to the disciples to know the mystery of the kingdom!
 - (2) In them the “Prophecy” of Isaiah is Fulfilled! (Isaiah 6:9 cf. Ezekiel 12:2).
- We find this “Parable” in three of the four gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke, and each account should be read so that one can glean a FULL understanding of it. First, allow us to establish, who is.

I. THE SOWER

A. Matthew 13:37 will tell us who the “Sower” is!

- Jesus said, “He who SOWS the Good Seed is The SON of Man,” And, for those who did not know that “The Son of Man” is a direct reference to Jesus Christ Himself!
- *Well*, HOW do we know that? Matthew 16:13! The phrase, “Son of Man” is used some 86 times in the Bible and about 81 of those times it’s used by Jesus! But....

B. What does the “Son of Man” mean?

- First, the phrase “Son of” is a Hebrew idiom that was used to express the nature of someone. This language is common in the Bible!
- For instance: In Psalm 89:22, the Bible tells us, “The enemy shall not outwit him, NOR the ‘Son of Wickedness’ afflict him.” Here, the Psalmist is referring to ONE as the “Son of Wickedness”!
- In the New Testament, Luke 20:34 Jesus would say, “...The ‘Sons of the Age’ marry and are given in marriage.” Here, the SONS is referring to the entire human race, that is, male and female! So, the phrase, “Son of” is an idiom!
- *However*, Jesus called Himself, “The Son of Man,” what does this mean?
- He was just as HUMAN as any of us because He came in the likeness of a Man (Philippians 2:7)! He suffered like man could suffer (Luke 24:46)! He BLED like man (John 19:34)! He was MOCKED (Matthew 27:31)! He was TEMPTED like man YET without Sin (Hebrews 4:15)! And Jesus only used this phrase, “Son of Man” to describe Himself and NO ONE ELSE! So, the “Son of Man” depicts Jesus NATURE as a human being!

C. Jesus has “SEED”!

- *Nonetheless*, “What kind of SEED the Lord has with Him, And; what is this ‘Seed?’” (see Luke 8:11).
- So, the “SOWER” is the Son of Man, which is Jesus! He has “SEED,” And; the “SEED” is the “Word of God!” Any and Everything Jesus says is the Word of God! Now....

D. Where is this “SEED” falling?

II. THE FIRST GROUND: THE SEED FELL BY THE WAYSIDE

- A. In the process of sowing SEED, some falls in a variety of situations. Jesus begins by telling us how the SEED falls on some hard places, which He calls, the “Wayside”! (see Matthew 13:1-4).
- So, the Son of Man (Jesus) went out to Sow, and as He sowed, some of the Word of God FELL BY THE WAYSIDE....The “Wayside” means, “the edge of the road, a path.”
 - So, the Word of God fell on the road, places where it could not take root....it was exposed, and the birds came and devoured them! What does this mean? (see Mark 4:14-15).
 - Now, it’s NOT that the hearer CAN’T understand it, they just choose NOT to understand it!
 - Those who are of the “Wayside,” are people who are HEARERS only! They don’t allow the Word of God to penetrate into their hearts! The Word of God lies only on the surface of their hearts, and does not sink in and grow as it ought to! (cf. Romans 2:13; James 1:22).
 - Jesus makes this clearer (see Luke 8:12).
 - Satan has NO desire for man to BELIEVE and be SAVED! He has NO desire for man to come to the knowledge of the truth!
 - BUT God, (1 Timothy 2:4), “who DESIRES ALL MEN to be SAVED And come to the Knowledge of the Truth.”! Now....
- B. How does satan snatch the word out of ones heart?
- (1) He BLINDS them! (2 Corinthians 4:4)!
 - (2) He has ministers with “Poison for Words” that “Transforms themselves” into “Ministers of Righteousness” (2 Corinthians 11:14-15).
- They will tell you ANY and EVERYTHING you want to hear! You want to be healed from a disease? Presto, you’ve been healed! Forget that 1 Corinthians 13:8-13, tells us that the age of miracles have ceased and they have NO POWER to miraculously heal ANYONE!
 - You want to believe that your DRUNK uncle Johnny is in heaven, WahLah, they will tell you that too, to comfort your grieving heart! Forget that Proverbs 20:1 tells us, “Wine is a Mocker, Strong drink is a brawler and whoever is led by it is NOT wise.” (cf. Ephesians 5:18).
 - *However*, One of the most cunning ways that satan blinds the “Wayside” hearer is that he plants doubt in their hearts! I’m sure we’ve all heard it....
 - Do you REALLY believe that Christ only built ONE church? Forget Matthew 16:18!
 - Do you REALLY believe that Baptism is Essential for Salvation? Forget Mark 16:16!
 - Do you REALLY believe that Jesus is the Son of God? Forget John 20:31!
 - Do you REALLY believe that woman can’t preach like men? Forget 1 Timothy 2:11-12!
 - Do you REALLY believe that God is going to send ALL these people to hell because they are not members of the church of Christ? Mannnn, you’ve GOT to be kidding me!!!! Forget 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9! The devil is He’s cunning....Genesis 3:1, he has snares....1 Timothy 3:7, he has NO desire for the Wayside hearer to obey the Gospel so that they could be saved!
 - So, the Word of God finds NO permanent dwelling in the heart of the Wayside person and the devil comes, SNATCHES the word that was Sown in his heart JUST like a bird that comes and picks up grain that falls by the wayside!
 - How does the birds come and devour the seed? Because the seed is exposed on the surface and does not take root! “IF” the SEED takes root, the birds would not be able to devour it because it has planted itself in the earth! Listen to it now....Satan would not be able to SNATCH the SEED (the Word of God from ANYONE), and WHY? Because “IF” it takes ROOT (“IF” it is planted in the earth of your heart), you CAN be Saved!
 - There are people who are of, “The Wayside”, even family members, everyone is NOT going to believe! But you brethren, stay encouraged, take courage and remain faithful and walk worthy of the calling in which you were called! (Ephesians 4:1).