

YIELDING TO YIELD (LUKE 8:1-21)

We are going to be looking at, once again, Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed and we'll also look at it in context by reading what happened prior to Jesus giving that parable and what happened afterwards, according to Luke's narrative. That parable is found in three of the four gospel accounts of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord, in the synoptic gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. What that then says to us initially is, that was an important and impactful teaching of Jesus. The gospel of John does not have that parable as John did not mention any parables but focused on the deity of Christ Jesus and His I AM statements such as "I AM the Bread of Life", "I AM the Light of the world", and "I AM the Resurrection and the Life". If you are thinking, oh this again? I've read that parable many, many times. Amen, so have I. In fact, we looked at Matthew's account of that parable this summer, although I did not expound much on it as Jesus gave to His disciples (and to us) the meaning of the parable. And several years ago we also went over Mark's account of that parable. As I was reading through the Luke account of the parable of the sower the other day, there was a couple of things that spoke to me that I don't know if I had ever thought much about in the past. But it was one of those "aha" moments, where I went "wow, that's good!"

As a child of God, that is, one who has believed on Christ Jesus and received Him, by being born-again as Jesus said all must be in order to become a child of God and to inherit eternal life, we are though, just as we are told, "children of God". That means that God, through the working of His Holy Spirit, guides us into His truth, teaching us, as we are His children, His will and His ways, which means we begin to get to know Him, to love Him, to put our trust in Him, and to honor Him with our lives, in all that we say and do, as Christ Jesus is our life, and as we are children of God. Jesus summed that all up for us in one more of His I AM statements by saying in **John 14:6**, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

We begin to live our lives in Christ Jesus accordingly to God being our Lord, God, and Savior, our Heavenly Father, our Creator, and yes, as we are His obedient children and love Him as He loves us, He can even be our friend. We also grab hold of what King David said of God in **Psalms 18:1-3**, "I will love You, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies." That goes right along with Jesus telling His disciples, and then us, in another one of His I AM statements, "I am the True Vine, and My Father is the Vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away [or lifts up; airo (ah-ee-ro)]; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes,

that it may bear more fruit. (**John 15:1-2**) "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw *them* into the fire, and they are burned." (**John 15:4-6**) The word "airo" is the same word Jesus used in saying, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take [airo] My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light." (**Matthew 11:28-30**) Jesus is also recorded as using that word "airo" saying, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take [airo] up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it." (**Matthew 16:24-25**) I did not include all that just to elaborate on the word "airo". It speaks to the theme of Jesus' point in the parable of the sower, that we are indeed yielding to God through Christ in order to yield a crop, to bear fruit for the glory of God.

He is also, El Elyon, God Most High, and as **Colossians 1:16** tells us, "For by Him [Christ Jesus, the Word] all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him." So we are expected to give Him the respect, honor, and reverence that is due Him, as the Creator of all things, and that He truly "upholds all things by the word of His power". (**Hebrews 1:3**) And as we grow in the knowledge and understanding of God and His Word, we can see more and more of how His Word is one big picture, all pieced together, of God's love for and redemptive plan for mankind. That doesn't mean then for us a one-time experience of "getting saved". How beautiful that picture becomes to us, the more we get to know God and His Word, of His great love for us, as "[w]e love Him because He first loved us" (**1 John 4:19**), and we gain a better understanding of God's plan as the Apostle Peter put it, "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to **repentance**." (**2 Peter 3:9**) That word has high significance to us, as we have been looking at the importance of repentance as part of God's plan for us, over the past weeks, and we've seen that need for repentance as we look at the blended fabric of God's Word, and then also its meaning in relationship to the parable of the sower of the seeds.

We are now, as children of God, living according to the New Covenant that is in Christ Jesus and we are no longer under the Mosaic law but the "law of liberty", (**James 1:25**) the "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (**Romans 8:2**). So, the foundation to our being a

child of God and being "saved" is of course in Christ Jesus, by believing on Him and receiving Him. "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (**John 1:12-13**). I'll repeat a part of what we went over last week. We are being led by God through His Holy Spirit to believe on Jesus as being the Christ, the Savior of the world, who died on a cross for our sins, that He bore our sins upon Himself. He died on that cross, yet, and He conquered death, sin, and evil, as He rose from the grave on the third day, He also made a way for us too, to overcome that sting of death and then have eternal life in Him! Yet we are, in the words of the Apostle Peter, as children of God, "a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you **out of darkness into His marvelous light**" (**1 Peter 2:9**) And, once again, a part of that process of being born-again then is in knowing God's love for us through Christ Jesus (**John 3:16-17**). We are then responding by loving Him as He has first loved us (**1 John 4:19**), and He is also then calling and leading us to **repentance**. It is God, through His Holy Spirit, who is calling and leading us to repentance, (metanoeo), recognizing a need for change and heeding to that need, turning to God for forgiveness of our sins, and to receive Him and His Righteousness, to receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ (**Romans 8:9**), so as to be, born-again, as we are turning away from continuing to sin against God and turning to Him for His Righteousness. Jesus said, "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—" (**John 14:15-16**) Keep His commandments, what is that? Jesus said that the whole of the law and of the prophets hangs on us loving God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, and then to also love others as ourselves. (**Mark 12:30-31**) We are not following the Mosaic law of the Old Covenant, we are following the doctrine, or teaching of Jesus. As the Apostle John tells us, "Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ **has both the Father and the Son.**" (**2 John 1:9**) Similarly, to what Jesus had said about keeping His commandments, the Apostle Peter, in speaking to the High Priest and the Chief Priests, who had told Peter and the other apostles to stop preaching Christ Jesus, he said, "**We ought to obey God rather than men.** [that is a heart of repentance] The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be **Prince and Savior**, to give repentance to Israel [and then to all nations according to the Great Commission] and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him." (**Acts 5:29-32**) Just as the Apostle John said that those who obey the teachings of Christ has both the Father and the Son, after Jesus had promised the Holy Spirit to those who **obey God**, He said this, "**If anyone loves Me,**

he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him." (John 14:23) It is then, as we obey Him, we experience the blessed fellowship with God our Father and our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus, we can have that wholeness and completeness in Christ as He is the Prince of Peace (peace=shalom/eirene, which implies we have wholeness/completeness within ourselves (the peace of God, and that's how we can love ourselves), with God, and with others. We are then yielding to yield, as we love God and want for Him to have the glory. God has great promises for us yet in the meantime we are to be about our Father's business! (Luke 2:49)

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Many Women Minister to Jesus (Luke 8:1-3)

Now it came to pass, afterward, that He [Jesus] went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

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For our first "aha" moment, it is in that first sentence. "Now it came to pass, afterward, that He [Jesus] went through every city and village, **preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God.**" Preaching is the Greek word "kerusso" (kay-roos-so) which means to "To proclaim, to preach, to herald".¹ Very similar to that sounding word "kerusso" is the Greek word "kairos", which means "at a time, or season". The Kairos prison ministry uses that word then to mean, "God's Special Time." That kairos time was referred to by Jesus, at the beginning of His ministry when He said, "The time [kairos] is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent**, and believe in the gospel." Jesus then "kerusso"ed to the "kairos". As the Apostle Paul preached to the church at Corinth he told them, "We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain. For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you. Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (2 **Corinthians 6:1-2**) Now is our time of salvation, not just to be "saved" but to receive the "glad tidings of the kingdom of God". Glad tidings is that same Greek word, "euangelizomai" (evangelize) that was used in the narrative of the angel speaking, or evangelizing (sharing the good news) to the shepherds, saying, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you **good tidings** [euangelizomai] **of great joy** [chara-properly, recognizing of God's grace, favor] which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior [soter-sotierology=the study of salvation through Christ], who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10)

1 <https://biblehub.com/greek/2784.htm>

As Jesus was “preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God, not only were those women following Jesus, and listening to what He was teaching, they were doing what they could to help Him. I’m sure pastors have used that passage of Scripture to speak on the topic of tithes and offerings, yet what came to me right away in reading that was Jesus’ teaching on the sheep and the goats in **Matthew 25**. “And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.’ Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?’ And the King will answer and say to them, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’” (**Matthew 25:33-40**) Those women got to literally help Jesus in the flesh by providing for Him and His disciples, yet we can be now, as we are loving God with all that is in us, and loving others, according to the Great Commandments and the Great Commission given to us by Jesus, sharing and showing the love and the gospel of Christ Jesus, in whatever way we can as the opportunities, the kairos moments are given to us. “inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

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The Parable of the Sower (Luke 8:4-8)

And when a great multitude had gathered, [from the Matthew account we are told that the crowd was so intense that Jesus got into a boat and preached to the folks on the shore] and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “**He who has ears to hear, let him hear!**”

The Purpose of Parables (Luke 8:9-10)

Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.’”

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That obviously was not to all the Jews. As Jesus had said, “I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (**Matthew 15:24**), and “I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to

repentance." (Luke 5:32) It was then later, after Jesus had risen from the dead He gave His Great Commission to His disciples saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:18-20) There we have, Immanuel, God is with us!

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The Parable of the Sower Explained (Luke 8:11-15)

[take note of Jesus' explanation and in how one's condition of their heart, whether one truly has a heart of repentance or not, determines their response to the Word] "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved." [Matthew's account says of them that they hear the word but don't understand it] "But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and **bring no fruit to maturity.** But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having **heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.**"

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That is why it is important for us to know the Word of God, that we are being led by the Holy Spirit to believe on Christ, repent from sinning against God, and to surrender our will and ways to His will and ways. For there is only one way to have a noble and good heart. As King David prayed to God in **Psalm 51:10**, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." We are though, just as David was, being led to repentance to be transformed, changed, made whole and complete in Christ Jesus. "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death." (**2 Corinthians 7:10**) Godly sorrow! As the Holy Spirit leads us to repent, it is not to just bring about sorrow, but to lead us to Christ Jesus as He is our Way, Truth, and Life! Our understanding of that simply leads us to one conclusion with two options. Obey God and walk in His ways or not. One way leads to life eternal and wholeness through Christ, yielding to His will to yield for His glory, and the other leads to death.

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The Parable of the Revealed Light (Luke 8:16-18)

"No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken

from him." [The Apostle Peter tells us, "And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts." (2 Peter 1:19) What or who is that? Jesus declared, "I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." (Revelation 22:16)

Jesus' Mother and Brothers Come to Him (Luke 8:19-21)

"Then His mother and brothers came to Him, and could not approach Him because of the crowd. And it was told Him by some, who said, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, desiring to see You." But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

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Please, always remember this: Immanuel, God is with us! "For by grace [the favor of God] you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:8-10) It is up to us then to yield to Christ Jesus, our Bright and Morning Star, in order to bear fruit for His glory, and we will in His time (Kairos-God's special time) be richly rewarded, although one who knows Him and loves Him acknowledges that they are already highly favored and blessed and whole in Christ Jesus!