

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
By Pastor Darryl Baker

For The Week of 06.07.10

"HOW GOD'S WORD WORKS - PART #1"

Mark 4:20 But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept *it*, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred."

If you have ever taken a trip across this great country of ours one of the things that you will see a lot of as you travel is farmland. It is quite a site before harvest time to see rows and rows of corn, cotton, or fields full of hay to name a few things. What you don't see at that point is all the effort those farmers had to put forth so that harvest would be there. One of the most important parts is preparing the fields before planting.

But what good would the fields be if there were no seed to plant? What good would the seed be if planted but not watered and cared for? God has given us His Word so that it will produce in us the god-kind of harvest He desires to see in all our lives. This week we begin a series of studies on "How God's Word Works". We are going to look at what Jesus said is the most important parable, for if you don't understand this parable He said how could you understand all the parables.

In Mark 4:3-20 we have the parable of the sower. I have used as our foundation text the last verse which is what we should all desire, seed sown on good ground which will produce 30, 60, and 100 fold return. To get there we need to go back to the start of this parable to understand how we can see the Word of God produce results in our lives.

Mark 4:3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow.

Jesus begins by telling His audience to listen to what He is about to say. This word listen means, to attend to. What He is saying here is don't just listen with your ears, put into practice what I am about to tell you. The first admonition in how God's Word works is you must attend to it. Many believers have heard what God's Word says, but they don't do what it says. James tells us that if you are a doer and not just a hearer of the Word, you will be blessed. As simple as that may sound as we will see in the coming weeks, God's Word has within it the ability to produce exactly what it says. But it cannot do so if we don't apply God's Word as instructed.

I know from trying to take care of different plants over the years that if you don't apply the appropriate amount of water, or put that plant in the right atmosphere, (some need sun some don't), it won't live. So it is with

the Word of God. We can either hear what it says and then go about doing what we think works, or we can follow the instruction of God's Word and see it grow and produce life in and through us. Most of the plants that I have bought over the years that died did so because I did not take the time to find out exactly how to care for it. So one of the things we must not do is take for granted we are doing what God's Word says. If it is producing fruit in our lives then we are following God's instruction.

After this first admonition Jesus states that a sower went out to sow. We obviously know from the parable He is sowing seed. In this parable we also know that seed represents the Word of God. Notice it is a sower who went to sow. This is something that I believe is significant. It is an area that I have taught on that some may not agree with, but other great men of God like Lester Sumrall, and Mark Barclay to name a few have taught as well. A sower would represent first and foremost a pastor. God desires for us all to have a pastor over our life. He does not say pastors, but pastor. Take a look at the words of Jesus in the following verse.

Matt. 10:41 He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward.

Jesus says in this verse from Matthew that he who receives a prophet, not prophets, but a prophet singular, in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward. That reward is the seed of God's Word that can grow up and produce the life of God in and through you. The word "prophet" here is described as one who is inspired by the Holy Spirit in relating the Kingdom of God to others. This primary role in the life of the believer is given to the pastor. It is the pastor who needs to be inspired by the Holy Spirit to bring insight and revelation to his flock about God's Kingdom and how it works.

The other five-fold ministry gifts of the apostle, prophet, evangelist, and teacher are going to assist the pastor in accomplishing this goal being used of God in their calling as well. But it is the pastor who is called on by God to speak to the flock God has called unto their care that will be responsible week in and week out to help God's people. He is a sower sent out by God to a local community to sow the Word of God into the lives of people. Jesus again did not refer in verse 41 to prophets plural, but a prophet. To receive him means to take as one's own. This again referring to receiving the pastor God has sent to bless your life.

Matt. 9:36 But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.

Here we see Jesus moved with compassion for the multitudes because they did not have a shepherd. The word for shepherd here means a

pastor, singular. Because they did not have a pastor they were weary and scattered. Weary here means they were weak. There are far too many people in the body of Christ who are spiritually weak because they have not found their pastor. The word scattered means they falter because of hunger. It is rather obvious that if we do not have a shepherd over our life whom we know God gave to us we are not going to be satisfied, but hungry.

This can be seen in many today who go to church and are yet never satisfied in life because they are not being fed the full truth of God's Word. If you water down God's Word you will remain hungry. In other cases there are those who attend churches because it is a family tradition to be a part of a certain church, and yet they are not getting fed the whole truth of God's Word. In verse 40 of Matthew 10 Jesus had said that they who receive the one whom Jesus sends receive Him, and in doing so they receive the Father who sent Him.

How important is the shepherd of your life? If you want to get the reward that God has for you it is very important. As we will see in the weeks ahead those pastors who are speaking the whole truth of God's Word can still have people that don't see results because they must provide good ground for the seed. More on that in the coming weeks. But it is just as important to make sure you are where God sent you to be. There are some key things to finding the shepherd Jesus has for your life. Let's take a look at some.

2 Tim. 4:1 I CHARGE [you] in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, Who is to judge the living and the dead, and by (in the light of) His coming and His kingdom:

2 Tim. 4:2 Herald *and* preach the Word! Keep your sense of urgency [stand by, be at hand and ready], whether the opportunity seems to be favorable or unfavorable. [Whether it is convenient or inconvenient, whether it is welcome or unwelcome, you as preacher of the Word are to show people in what way their lives are wrong.] And convince them, rebuking *and* correcting, warning *and* urging *and* encouraging them, being unflagging *and* inexhaustible in patience and teaching. AMP

Paul tells Timothy who pastored the church at Ephesus that he was to preach the Word. Whether favorable or not, welcome or unwelcome he was to show people in what way their lives are wrong. Paul was not admonishing Timothy to beat people over the head with the Bible, but he was to declare all of God's Word in love, convincing, rebuking, correcting, warning, urging, and encouraging them. A good pastor is not going to preach from God's Word only what he thinks people want to hear. He is not going to leave things out because people might not be comfortable with hearing about the gifts of the Spirit, or speaking in tongues for example, because he knows of the benefit that will come when they receive all that God has for them. Sitting under a pastor who is not

speaking all the truth is robbing yourself of what Jesus died and paid for.

Another sign of a good pastor is someone who lives what they preach. They are an example to the flock of what they declare from the pulpit. They will love you no matter what, and they will keep telling you the truth in love. For God's Word to work in our lives we need to find the "sower" whom God has sent forth to sow God's Word into our life. When we do we have the ability to reap the rewards that will come from the Word of God. So if we will take heed to what we hear, and find the sower Jesus sent to us we are well on our way to seeing God's Word work in our lives.

See You Again Next Week For More
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MAY GOD'S VERY BEST BE YOURS!
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