

Sunday School Lesson Discussion Questions

Discussion Questions on the Sunday School Lesson, Parables of Jesus, for Sunday, March 6.

1. Why did Jesus teach by parables?

2. In what respect is the soul of a man like the soil of the land?

3. Why is cultivation necessary for the soil and for the soul?

4. What must be done to cultivate the soul?

5. What happens to that soul that is not cultivated?

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Creamed Comments On S.S. Lesson

Creamed Comments on the Sunday School Lesson, Parables of Jesus, (Temperance Lesson), Mark 4:1-9; Luke 15:11-14, for Sunday, March 6.

Jesus used parables to teach by story form the common folks, turning aside criticisms of the Pharisees who might consider story telling beneath their dignity, thus paying no attention to them.

V.1. "And he began again to teach by the sea side; and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on land." Jesus' popularity at this time was seen by the large multitude that pressed him for help and for his gospel messages.

V.2. "And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine," These parables were short invented stories which were true to life and from which spiritual lessons were drawn.

V.3. "Hearken: Behold there went out a sower to sow." The sowing was done by the hand swinging around the body, the seed being thrown out through the fingers.

V.4. "And it came to pass as he sowed, some fell by the wayside, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up." This parable applies to those who by prejudice, constant neglect, and postponing lessen the power of being impressed by gospel appeals. This is a hardening of the heart.

V.5. "And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprung up because it had no depth of earth." Here was a mixture of good soil with rocks and stones. The soil was shallow because of its being on rocks. The sun heated the rocks which in turn would cause seed in the soil above to germinate quickly. Here is vacillating because he lacks depth of soul, having little will power.

V.6. "And when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away." The heated rocks would continue to warm the seed or plant and as there was no chance for the roots to go down far, plant vitality ceased and it withered away. The superficial man who accepts the gospel and makes a Christian de-

cision gives up after the glow on his first Christian experiences; he is easily discouraged and easily offended and in a short time gives up trying to be a Christian.

V.7. "And some fell among thorns and the thorns grew up, and choked it and it yielded no fruit." In the soil uncultivated there lie dormant seed of weeds and when the soil is stirred these seed will grow and if permitted to develop will finally choke out the plants coming from good seed. The man whose soul has been stirred to accept Christ as his Savior finds let loose in his mind and heart evil inclinations that had been dormant till now when soul cultivation has taken place. The things of the world, lust, distorted appetites, now assert themselves and the question arises, Shall I give them up? If they are not given up, the better life started will be choked out.

V.8. "And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, some sixty, an some a hundred." By thorough and continual cultivation the soil is made good. Here we find man, earnest and sincere; he makes soul preparation by earnestly seeking the way, casting aside thoughts, desires and motives that are evil; he is persistent in being at his best and doing his best as a child of God.

V.9. "And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." This implies that there is more in the story than appears on the surface; there is a hidden meaning, and careful attention will be necessary to attain it.

V.10. "And he said, a certain man had two sons." In this parable God is depicted as the Righteous One.

V.11. "And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted the substance of his inheritance. Here is the place for the lesson of intemperance. The result of intemperance is seen in the following verse: "And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in the land: and he began to be in want."

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