

KEEP YOUR HOUSE CLEAN

Mark 4:3-8

3 Harken, Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth, and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth.

6 But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

In the parable of the four soils, there was only one that was good soil. Every other soil was bad – no fruit was produced! The only soil that produced was the one that had nothing in it - it was pure, “clean” dirt! If you think about it, we are all made of dirt. That is how God created man in the first place – from the dust of the Earth! God used pure soil to create Adam, and after his fall, (disobedience) not only was satan able to bring curses upon man, but the Earth was also cursed! Weeds, briars and thorns would grow! It would be harder to grow good crops after that happened!

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow (pain) thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground: for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. (Genesis 3:13-19)

You must realize that God never cursed man. He cursed the Earth in that it would grow weeds and thorns, and He cursed the serpent, making it crawl on its belly and eating dust from then on! Then God prophesied Jesus coming and bruising satan’s head! To Eve, God said that her conception and childbirth would be more painful, and that her husband, Adam, would rule over her. She was formed from Adam’s rib and was to stand by her man – at his side - as his helpmate. She was made for him, just as we “the bride,” are here for our husband, Jesus! God was so merciful! Never did He curse His beautiful and most prized creation, mankind!

When you read in Mark 4 about the four different soils, you will realize that every soil is bad except for the last one – they are worthless because they won't produce anything! The soil represents your heart. Think about your life for a moment. How much, if any, fruit are you producing right now? When is the last time you witnessed to someone and led them to the Lord? When is the last time you went out of your way to help someone and show them the love of Christ? *Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in My name, He may give it you. These things I command you, that ye love one another. (John 15:16, 17)* Let's face it: if you don't abide in Christ, you won't be producing any good fruit at all! We as Christians are supposed to be producing fruit that remains! If we don't have the pure, good soil in us, (our hearts) we are basically nothing but sinking sand!

Remember the builder that built his house on sinking sand – when the wind and waves beat against his house, it fell! The one who built his house on the rock, (Jesus) stood firm when the storms of life came! *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell and great was the fall of it. (Matthew 7:24-27)*

You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit if you have received the life of Christ – If you have repented of your sins and Jesus is your Lord! Jesus doesn't want to be in a house that is in bad shape and caving in! He deserves the best, don't you think? After all, He has a mansion in Heaven for you! He deserves all that He paid for, right? He wants free range of motion inside of you, where He can live and move comfortably in every room! He also doesn't want any clutter and debris (sin/things of the world) taking up His space! He also wants a home that will stand the tests of time! When persecution and trials come, He expects His house (you) to stand firm on the solid Word of God! No matter what comes along in your life, He wants you to trust Him to bring you through! He wants you to stand secure in Him – He wants you to put your hope and faith in Him! Yes, the curses are out there and we have to deal with temptations every day, whether it's sin, sickness, emotional problems, thoughts, financial situations, family issues, etc. Every day we make decisions in every area of our lives, but in order to live in victory, to where you aren't sinking and falling, you must make the ultimate decision to make Jesus your Lord and center your entire life around Him and His Word! God's Word never changes and it is able to be trusted, praise God!

There are answers in God's Word for every single situation you go through! Jesus is coming soon for His bride, the church, and He expects her to be ready for Him and watching for Him! He expects us to be doing what He called us to do when God tells Him to come and get us! *So get rid of all the filth and evil in your lives, and humbly accept the Word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don't just listen to God's Word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. (James 1:21:22)*

Don't struggle with the petty things you your life – Jesus expects you to already be living in faith and not by sight in your own life and out helping others along the way! He already gave you the tools to do it! You are supposed to be sharing the Good News to others that Jesus saves – that He has reconciled them to His Father, and all they need to do is repent, believe Him and receive Him! You must be the good soil that God created you to be! You must be abiding in the vine and producing good fruit for Him! You don't want to offer up rotten fruit to God, and you don't want Jesus to live in a broken down shack with a leaky roof, either!

He has so much more for you – His plans for you are GOOD! “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the LORD, “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11) You are His house – you belong to Him! You are the Temple of the Holy Spirit – Jesus deserves ALL that He paid for! He took (became) the curse for us! *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith. (Galatians 3:13-14)* Don't let satan crawl around in the dust of your heart and try to lead you astray! Keep your soil clean by keeping your eyes on God's Word, (Jesus) and grow up into Jesus! *But speaking the truth in love may **grow up into Him** in all things, which is the head, even Christ. (Ephesians 4:15)* Eat my dust, satan!

In Christ, Jody