



Living Walking Serving

FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON LIVING WALKING AND SERVING

STUDY 20-28: ENEMIES OF THE WORD OF GOD

Text: Matt.13:3-23, Mk.4:1-20, Lk.8:4-15, James 1:22-25, 2Cor.4:4, Isa.6:9-10, Prov.4:7, 2Tim.2:4, 4:10, John 15:2, 3; col.3:16, 17; James 1:21

From the parable of the four soils, Jesus shows us the enemies of the Word of God.

The point of the parable is that the condition of the soil determines the potential for growth. The principle is true for Christians and Non-Christians alike. Those who become complacent and lackadaisical are not likely to receive the word with benefit. (James 1:22-25)

The soils do not represent individual moments of decision as much as a lifelong response to God's word

The parable speaks of the seed as the Word of God.

The pathway soil: is trampled, hard, and unresponsive, **the enemy number one is Satan** represented by the bird in this parable, quickly takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. This is because those by the way side never really gain an understanding of the word of God before it is snatched away, there is really no productivity at all. See 2Cor.4:4, Isa.6:9-10, Prov.4:7

The stony places: refers to the shallow soil resting on a shelf of rock. This soil represents those who seem eager to receive Christ's message but whose commitment is superficial. A brief and superficial encounter with the word of God will not stand times of testing – the tribulations or persecutions

A person needs to meditate on the truths in Scripture and establish them as principles for living in order to withstand the trials and temptations that will inevitably come

The thorn-infested soil: represents those who hear the Word but lack single-mindedness and become completely unproductive. **The cares of this world, pleasure seeking, deceitfulness of riches, and the pursuit of other things** are both capable of producing a deadly spiritual apathy. This type of soil is viewed as tragically unsuccessful. See 2Tim.2:4, 4:10

The good soil: allows the word of God to settle in and become productive – a noble and good heart. Christ emphasizes the necessity to hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit. Such a person recognizes God's call, determines to follow it, and experiences a profound transformation. See John 15:2, 3; col.3:16, 17; James 1:21