

“The Truth As We Know It”
The Law Of The Harvest
Preparing The Ground

5/24/15

Last week I talked about the joy of the harvest. This week I want to talk about proper cultivation to produce a good harvest. One of the principles of the harvest is that we cannot sow seed and expect an immediate harvest. It takes proper preparation of the soil before the seed can take root. Jesus tells the parable about the sower in Mat 13:3-9 saying, "Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no depth of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up, and choked them: But other seed fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

I want to address the seed that fell on stony ground where there was not any depth of earth. In Jesus' explanation of the parable He says they had no root within themselves. And we read in Mat 13:20-21, "He that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that hears the word, and anon with joy receives it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but endures for a while: for when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, by and by he is offended."

In preparing the ground for sowing the seed, proper cultivation needs to take place. The sod must be broken up and prepared before the seed is sown. Then after the seed is sown it takes time for it to grow and ripen before the harvest can be done.

I believe the same is true in the spirit. I believe it is the responsibility of us as parents to prepare our children to hear the word of God and develop root that will help them weather the storm when it comes, and it will come in all of our lives.

Far too many of us depend on the church or Sunday School to turn our children around or get them saved. But if root has not been developed by the parents, they have a very hard time maintaining a proper relationship with Jesus.

Often we need to cultivate the crop as it is growing up. We have to pull or cut weeds, make sure that our crop is protected from bad insects and animals. Just as when a newborn baby is brought into a family or church, all the ladies and young girls gather around and play with and want to hold and take care of the newborn. We need to understand a newborn Christian often needs the same kind of care and attention and nurturing.

We don't tell a newborn baby to go fend for themselves! But we make sure they have proper care and are properly fed and cleaned. So it should be with newborn Christians. Somehow we expect them to suddenly be mature Christians and make good choices. But if they are not nurtured and given a chance to develop with proper follow-through, the devil will challenge them immediately and cause them to doubt their decision to follow Christ. Particularly if they are not raised in a good Christian home where root is developed from childhood.

The Bible is very clear about the responsibility of parents to train their children. In Deu 6:5-7 we read, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. And these words, which I command you this day, shall be in your heart: And you shall teach them diligently unto your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lay down, and when thou rise up."

I like what David says in Psa 78:1-6 and we read, "Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, showing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children:"

God's choosing Abraham was directly reflected in the knowledge that he would train his children to follow God. In Gen 18:19 we read, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and

they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him."

What we stand for today will affect generations yet unborn. We need to be sure that our children have a good grounding in the word of God. One of the major issues today is that we try to teach our children to love God and His word, then we send them off to a public school that is not allowed to lead them in prayer or read the Bible to them under the guise of separation of Church and State. Multi Millions of young American students are growing up without any real knowledge of God or of simple right and wrong absolutes.

That is why I thoroughly recommend Christian education. The Christian school is there to reinforce what the Christian parents are trying to instill into their children. Though our state does not yet give tuition credits or vouchers or tax credits for tuition to private Christian schools, the cost is well worth it to hand down to our children the Biblical values that they develop in a good Christian School. I know the sacrifice is great, but it will make the difference of our children and grandchildren's place through-out all eternity.

In the fall of 1989 we at Piedmont Christian Academy opened our doors and began as a small Christian School. Since then we have seen God move in an awesome way in the students that have come through our program. We are now an accredited Christian School. We have seen young men and women graduate and go on to become Pastors of well established churches. We have seen several of our graduates become leaders in the military. Some have become nurses, or a Principal of a Christian school. They have been able to attend the colleges of their choice. If you school aged children, please contact our office at 864-845-5154.

Of all the things I have had the privilege of doing in my life, starting Piedmont Christian Academy is right at the top of the list. It is our effort to develop root in the heart of the young people that come through our doors. Statistics tell us that if a person has not made a decision for Christ by the time they Graduate, only one four ever will. Also 90% of all Christians made their decision for Christ before their thirtieth birthday.

The Tabernacle of Faith has a great youth program in our Wednesday evening service. We pick up neighborhood young people and we have seen many decisions for Christ. But we often encounter the principle Jesus talks about in the parable about the seed falling on stony ground without much root. Because we send those young people home to parents who often are not Christians. At least not in the true sense of the meaning of the word. We are doing what we can to develop follow-through with youth camps and attending great spiritual events in our area. We are looking to see the long-term results. Only heaven will show the ultimate reward.

Listen again next week.

This we do know, The Bible is God's Word, God's word is true,
Jesus Christ is God's son, Jesus died to save us from our sin,
Without Jesus we are eternally lost. Neither is there salvation in any
other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men,
whereby we might be saved. Atheism is a temporary condition, for
every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ
is Lord! Jesus stands ready to save you now, Will you call on Him today?

Until next week, God bless you.