

Series: Divine Healing Series

Title: Session 19 – The Unfruitful Grounds

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The Main Law of the Kingdom

1. The Sower and the Word

- In verse 14, He begins by saying: “The sower sows the word.” Who is the sower? Well, the sower is originally God, because it’s God’s word.

Isaiah 55:11 (NKJV)

¹¹So shall **My word** be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me **void**, but **it shall accomplish** what I please, and **it shall prosper** in the thing for which I sent it.

- But there are other sowers as well. I am a sower, I take God’s word given to me and I sow it in other people’s hearts. There are many sowers out there. Some are wise sowers and others are not so wise. However, from what Jesus is teaching it seems that this parable has more to do with the ground than with the sower. The biggest issue is the way God’s word is received, not so much how is sent. You have to hear it correctly and receive it right. Example: If someone were to ask you after lunch on Sunday what was the message at church about, would you still remember what you took from it? What about after a week?
- What is the word of God or the word of Christ or the word of grace that produces faith when you hear it? That word of God consists of all the laws that God has decreed and put in place in the spiritual realm which apply to you as a new creation. This refers to all the promises that God has spoken about you and have effect here on earth. That includes: peace, joy, prosperity, blessing, healing, victory, success, etc. Whenever you hear a sermon or a teaching, if it hasn’t produced in you faith (confidence, hope, joy, boldness), it is not the word of God.
- The word of God is the testament that God left us about the inheritance He has given us in Christ and which belongs to us here on earth. This fortune is huge, and it is revealed to us in stages, in multiple sessions.
- The word of God is the final authority in any area of our lives. There will always be a conflict and a gap between what the word of God says and what experience (what we see, what we feel) says. However, we shouldn’t let experience interpret the Bible, but let the Bible interpret experience.
- The same gap has been between Jesus and the religious people. And the same it is today. When I say religion, I also refer to Christians. Many Christians interpret the Bible according to their experience, instead of enforcing the Bible to change the experience.
- God always speaks on purpose. He never makes waste of words like us. And everything He says, He expects it to come to pass. When He said in 1 Peter 2:24 that by Jesus’ stripes we were healed, He expects it to come to pass in our lives.

- Now Mark 4:14 tells us that the sower sows the word, not the words. God sows into peoples' hearts the same word that is already settled in heaven. That means He is convinced that what He said it's going to come to pass. But we need to be convinced of it as well.
- There is a non-negotiable thing: God is always on the side of the sower and not on the side of the devil taking the word. God and the devil have completely 2 different plans for your life. God will never say something, sow a word, and then decide to do something else, just because you have character flaws or something else.

2. Those That Don't Hear

- Notice one important thing: Jesus didn't even mention in this parable those who didn't hear the word. If you don't hear the word, you don't even have a shot or a chance at producing fruits. You're not even included in the parable. One of Satan's best tactics and strategies is to get you not to hear the word. Why? Because he doesn't even have to steal anything from you. You didn't get anything. He will make you busy. How many of you know that there are always more things to do than time? 😊 ALWAYS. You never write a check list and then see that you have 3-4 hours to spare to sleep or to walk. And especially when you are about to hear the word of God.
- Satan knows that if he can get you so busy to focus on other things and think about other stuff, then you are easy to handle for him. He can control you and manipulate you. When it's time to go to church, you come up with all kind of excuses: baseball game, out of town, work, etc. And that's all right. But some people don't come to church for months and then when they show, it's something like: Hey, we didn't find anything else better to do, so we came to church. 😊
- Jesus didn't even mention you in this parable because you don't have a shot at receiving anything from the word of God.

3. The Wayside Ground

Mark 4:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.

- Verse 15 – First category of ground. When they hear, Satan comes. When does Satan come? When you hear. Have you ever left church and had an argument on the way home? You just had a good service and have been in the presence of the Lord and then something happens that distracts you from what you heard at church. Or it can happen on the way to church.
- How fast does Satan come? Tomorrow or as soon as he has time? The Bible says that he comes IMMEDIATELY. Why would he drop everything else and come immediately to you? Of course, Satan is not alone, and probably will not come always in person to you, but he has many demons. But this is their first priority. Whenever you hear the word, they drop everything else and come over to you. Why would they do that? What does that tell you? It tells you that IN SATAN'S OPINION, this is top priority.

- Satan knows that if he doesn't stop the word right there, it will grow up. And if it grows up, he's got a problem. Because then you have too much confidence and you are solid on the word of God and he cannot control you or deceive you.
- So, when you hear, Satan comes immediately and gives you H15. Satan comes immediately and just makes you a little uncomfortable. Satan comes immediately just because he doesn't like you and he wants you to have a bad day. No, no, no. He has a very clear agenda. And Jesus is teaching us what that is: when you hear the word, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in your heart.
- This is how the kingdom of God works. Everyone of us has been ripped off and lost battles. This is why. Satan comes and steals the word from your heart. But if you don't know he's coming, then you will probably not pay any attention to it. And if you're not paying any attention to it, you will be ripped off.

Proverbs 4:20–23 (NKJV)

²⁰My son, **give attention to my words**; Incline your ear to my sayings.

²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart;

²²For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.

²³Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

- Somebody might say: Well, if it's God's will for the word to be in there, it will be in there. That's not true. It is God's will for the word to be there. The sower sows the word. God wouldn't sow the word, if it wasn't His will for the word to be there. But that doesn't mean that the word will automatically be there. You have to get it and keep it inside.
- If it's not inside or it's stolen, the word doesn't produce anything for the wayside people. Someone else might say: "Well, it wasn't God's will for me to have it. God knows what He's doing, we just trust in Him. Bless the Lord, He knows what He's doing." What have you done? You got off of what God said and entered into what it looks like He is doing. However, we are called to walk by faith and not by sight. We're supposed to stay on what God said, even if it looks like its going into the opposite direction.
- Wouldn't be nice to just say: Oh, God knows what He's doing! 😊 Yes, He knows what He's doing but He doesn't know what you're doing. He doesn't understand why you're not paying attention to this word coming into your heart.
- In some measure, we are all in this area, where we don't receive fulfilment from all the promises of God. You might be on good ground on regards to salvation, but when it comes to finances, or to healing, or to ministry, or to family issues, or things that frustrate you, etc, you are not taking advantage of the word of God.
- Another important issue is that when Satan comes to steal the word, he never identifies himself, he comes very subtle and strategic through the normal things of the day. His job is for you to think that it's the neighbor across the street, or God, or that it's just cancer, or aids. It's just my boss who won't give me my promotion that I deserve. But the Bible says we don't wrestle with flesh and blood. The problem is that you gave up the word.

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV)

¹²For ***we do not wrestle against flesh and blood***, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

4. The Stony Ground

Mark 4:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; ¹⁷and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.

- So, the first thing you need to do is to get in a place where you can hear the word. Everybody is different, and everyone has their preferences and such. I bought myself an mp3 player and whenever I have a break or driving, I put the headphones in and listen to the word all the time, because I know what it will do to me. I don't know about you, but I like to win. I want to win in life, I want to win in ministry, in my marriage, with my kids, in every area of my life.
- I already bought into this message that Jesus taught and I realized that if I can get this word into my ears in abundance, it will choke out all the other stuff and it will cause me to reap the fruits and the benefits of it. So, bringing myself to listen to the word is not a hassle, I'm excited about it.
- Second thing, when you receive the word, let it get down into your heart. Don't just let it come into one ear and get out through the other. Keep your mind on it, meditate on it, personalize it for you. Don't let your mind wonder home, at your job, or what you're going to it.
- The stony ground receives the word with gladness. They perceive something, they get excited. It can stay there for a couple of days.
- Verse 17 – What is tribulation? It is a hard time. It is a time when things are not flowing as they are supposed to flow, it's just rough. Hard times. Unusually hard times or things out of the blue. How about persecution? That is people problems. Does everybody love you all the time?
- Why do hard times and people problems come out of the blue? For the word's sake. Isn't that interesting? You want to know why that happens? Because Satan couldn't stop you from receiving the word into your heart. So, now he approaches you in a different way. He brings a few people problems your way. What do we do? We get out of shape, we get upset, we retaliate, and what does Satan do? "Thank you very much. I'll take that word now." And you don't even know it. And he's thinking: "These guys are dumb." He's using the same strategy over and over.
- Then when you get out of shape spiritually, you start talking negatively instead of talking God's word: "It's always happening to me. It's Murphy's law man." And you speak into existence your own defeat. Your words are giving Satan the right to do exactly what he wants to do.
- Is God trying to make you to stumble through hardships? No. He is the one trying to get His word come to pass in your life. Does God wear different masks at times? Here He says one thing, but later He wants something else? Is God playing both sides or maybe you are confused about this?

Persecution comes for the word's sake. So, you stumble, you get offended. When you get offended, the word of God is taken away of your heart.

- If you stay long enough in that mentality that things don't work as God said it, you will soon change your theology, you have to. And then you will start saying something different from what God said.
- However, one day you will stand before God and He will ask you why you didn't believe what He said and preached something else.

Proverbs 18:21 (NKJV)

²¹Death and life are in the **power of the tongue**, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- When you go through difficulty you should begin declaring what the word of God says, that you are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:37), God is always leading you into triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14), this is the victory that overcomes the world: your faith (1 John 5:4).
- Jesus says here: Let me tell you why it's not working. You stumbled. You got offended and put away the word of God.

Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV)

¹³Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, **and having done all, to stand.**

- After you've done everything the word of God tells you to do, then you just stand on that word continuously until it comes to pass. Persecution and tribulation will come at you telling you that it's not going to work, God doesn't love you, He's not going to do it for you, you messed up too many times, it didn't work for your papa or for your mama, it didn't work for your grandma, this is a generational thing, this is a genetic thing. The devil has all kinds of reasons why this is not going to work. However, your job is to stand there and say: Yeah I know about all that, but there is something more powerful than that, the word of God which is settled in heaven and which brings light in the darkness. The word of God will raise the dead. Our job is to stand on that word.

5. The Thorny Ground

Mark 4:18–19 (NKJV)

¹⁸Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word,

¹⁹and **the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things** entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

- So, if hard times and people problems (external problems) didn't get you off the word, Satan comes up with another strategy: he goes internal. Going internal, it takes him a lot more time, but it is a surer strategy if he can get it done.
- The cares of this world are the worries. Then the riches are not a problem, but the deceitfulness of riches is, thinking that money can resolve anything and rely on it more than on God. The desire for other things and the drive to obtain them through natural means. All these ENTER INTO THE HEART and choke the word. You allow these things to come into your ears and plant themselves into your heart and you give them time to grow to the point that they choke the word.

- Worry will choke the word so fast. Worry is the opposite of faith in the word. Worry is also faith, but faith in the negative. Worry is believing that something that you can't see, it's going come to pass. Even psychology says that over 80% of the things we worry about, never come to pass.
- Oh, you feel some pain here or there. Immediately you start thinking and talking: Oh, it feels like cancer or like a tumor. Oh, this is how it started with so and so. And you allow your mind to get filled with fear.
- Our brains are worry magnets. No matter how much you decide to get rid of worry and cast it on the Lord, it comes back at you like a magnet. The only way to choke that worry is by having more word in you than worry. That word will choke the worry automatically.
- The Greek word for *cares* is *marimna* and the root word of *marimna* is *merizo* which means *divide*.

Matthew 12:25 (NKJV)

²⁵But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: "Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house **divided** against itself will not stand.

- Basically, you know the promises of God and what God wants you to have, but the cares and worries come and divide you against yourself and from what God has said. They separate you from the promises and their fulfilment in your life.
- So many times, I prayed to God out of worry during the night, I cried desperately. At that point, I was a man of worry. Although I was declaring the word of God, I was motivated by worry. To deal with worry, that's the best thing to do to declare the word of God. However, such a prayer is not the prayer of faith yet. That's why so many times our prayers don't work. It matters what is in your heart. Are you awake in the middle of the night because you're scared out of your wits? You can use that prayer and declaration to build yourself up in faith, but a prayer motivated by worry is not a prayer of faith. A prayer of faith is when you're sure God will come through and you're just thanking God for it.

Mark 11:23 (NKJV)

²³For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and **does not doubt** in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

- Whoever SAYS to the mountain without doubting (merizo – division), he WILL HAVE WHATEVER HE SAYS.

Mark 9:23–25 (NKJV)

²³Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "**Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!**"

²⁵When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!"

- You see here the father of that epileptic guy coming to Jesus and when Jesus tells him that all things are possible to him who believes, he says: "Lord I believe; help my unbelief!" What is that? That's not faith, he is divided inside of him. Jesus healed that boy with his own faith, not with the father's. A divided person is not going to move mountains in his life.

James 1:5–8 (NKJV)

⁵If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives (*most of the times??*) to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

⁶But let him ask in faith, *with no doubting*, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

⁷For *let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

⁸he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

- Does anything from the Lord include healing, financial blessing, peace, joy? Yes, of course it does. It includes everything.
- You need to receive the word of God, hear it continuously and protect it in such a way that it will cast out every trace of doubt and you will be able to harvest the fruits of that word.
- God didn't promise answers to prayers to people that pray long prayers and cry out to God and implore Him to do something, even genuinely and honestly. Such people will never have their prayers answered. Sometimes God might intervene out of mercy, but that's not the rule. The passage above says it plain and clear: such a man will not receive anything from the Lord. It might seem insensitive to you. Isn't He unfair? I am trying to believe here. Doesn't He realize this? Don't even suppose or think that you will receive anything from the Lord.
- You hear people saying things like: "Oh we have people praying all over the world for this" As if the multitude of people praying for something impresses God. Or so many times you hear people saying: "Oh, I am praying for you." No, you're not, most of the times. Even you know it, they are busy, and they won't pray. Now thank God, there are people who are really praying when they say so, but that's not generally true. I don't like telling people I am praying for them and not do it.
- God never said that if you can get enough of a quorum or enough people to pray for something, He will answer. And yet we put confidence in that. The devil deceived us again to put our faith in something that it's not true. We should have our confidence in the faithfulness of God and not in the amount of people. Example: Azusa street 100 years' celebration in Los Angeles.

Matthew 18:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth *concerning anything that they ask*, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.

- It only takes 2 or 3 people of faith to agree on anything on earth, and it will be done for them. There's no need of crowds or begging for long times.