**The Infallible Word**

Based on [Luke 8:4-15](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Lk8.4-15) and [Isaiah 55:1-13](https://biblia.com/books/esv/Is55.1-13)

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The parable of the sower is about the infallability of God’s Word. It never fails, but accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent. It was sent to find purchase in a good heart, and it was sent to be misunderstood, betrayed, and rejected by all others.

There are several teachings couched in this parable, that we are blessed to mine and unpack for our learning.

First, we notice that ***the seed of the Word remains the same regardless of the Soil***. This is in contrast to good farming practice. A good farmer chooses the crop and plants the seed based on the quality of the soil. For instance, he plants rice in wet climates, wheat in drier ones. But Jesus is not teaching farming, he’s teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Regarding that kingdom, there is one type of seed, just as God’s Word and doctrine is one. There is not a gospel for women, gospel for minorities, gospel for transgenders, gospel for white males. There is one Gospel, one Lord, one faith, one baptism. If the seed doesn’t grow, or its sprout withers, it is not an indication of a bad seed…only bad soil.

It is not the seed that fails, it is the soil. It is not the word of God that fails, it is the person. A preacher can preach in one congregation the pure doctrine of God’s word that will produce a crop of abiding faith. He can preach the same doctrine elsewhere and it can be met with lukewarm indifference, criticism, even opposition. One can preach one and the same word in one and the same congregation and some receive it and others reject it.

Some preachers react like a weather vane, bend like a reed, and try to find a word that will please everyone. They end up preaching a God who is all blessing and no wrath, or all wrath and no blessing. Or they make the word so generic that it offends nobody and saves nobody, and is no word at all.

Against this spirit of accommodation, the parable of the sower teaches to sow the same seed. No hybrids; no genetically-modified word. Preach the pure word in season and out of season, to every tribe and every nation, and leave the growth to God.

Second, the parable teaches that ***God’s Word is meant for all people***. It would be very tempting to preach only to those who show a willingness to hear it. The word will not return void, however, even if it falls on poor soil and doesn’t sprout into a living, enduring and productive faith. God’s plan is not only for the word to be believed by his sheep who hear his voice. His plan is also for his word to be rejected.

Under the same conditions He sent his only-begotten son, Jesus Christ into the world. Jesus did not sneak from house to house, teaching only those willing to hear, or who were most likely to believe. Instead he preached openly, and his message and the word of his salvation fell upon many ears. He targeted the Jews, but his teaching fell on the ears of some Gentiles, whose faith exceeded the Jews. Some of his disciples heard and believed and remained with him. Others heard and left him because they said, “This is a hard teaching, who can accept it.” And still others of his own people heard him, decided that he must be stopped, and plotted his murder.

But that was God’s plan for sending his Son, His incarnate Word into the world. Jesus said, “**It is necessary that the son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and on the third day rise**.” God desires all to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. But he knows there will be those who will reject his salvation, resist his word, and rebel against his kingdom. This doesn’t mean that the Word fails them, it means that the purpose of the word is to convert the hearts of those who treasure it, and to reveal the hearts of those who reject it.

Third, we see in the parable that there are forces at work in the world to prevent faith, and to destroy faith. It is a false misleading dream to think that once you are baptized, or once you profess faith, or dedicate your life to Jesus, that you can never fall away. This is because before *and* after baptism, before *and* after faith, before *and* after salvation…the devil *still* prowls around you like a roaring lion; evil men *still* persecute and corrupt the innocent; and the world *still* promises you mammon and glory as an alternative to your cross.

That’s why we baptize even infants and small children, even as Naarah was baptized today. Cast the seed, apply the water combined with God’s word, and let it find purchase in good soil. Jesus says, “**Let the little children come to me**”, he says, “**Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.**” Can infants believe? Yes, even newborn babies can believe the word of God. John the Baptist leapt for joy in his mothers womb hearing the word of Mary. The Psalmist prays to God saying “**You taught me to trust you at my mother’s breast**”. Yes! infants can learn to trust their heavenly Father, even if they can’t speak about it. After all, they learned sin easily enough, why can’t they learn trust? Do not withhold God’s grace in baptism to an infant. You know full well knowing the devil isn’t going to leave her alone until she’s older.

This has to do with the lesson of the sower. The sower is not concerned about wasted seed. He is not concerned about withholding the seed from what might turn out to be bad soil. Therefore, God isn’t worrying about wasting his word…wherever it lands it has a purpose. So too, we don’t know what type of soil we have on our hands. Cast the seed and water it…preach the word and baptize the children…and let God give the growth.

Fourth, true believers can fall away from faith. And if faith is destroyed it is because the world was not “held fast”, after conversion, the will is involved in resisting the devil, the world, and the sinful flesh. Even true believers will fall away from the faith if they don’t hold fast.

Therefore true believers know that Jesus is not out of reach. He is the Word of God and he is available for you to hold fast. He said come to me all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. And he said, eat…this is my body given for you, drink…this is my blood shed for you for your forgiveness. Remember your Sabbath…come to church.

And he has taught you how to live in him and through him to whom we are branches as to the vine. If Christ is in your heart, keep him on your lips, and confess him before the world…even at your own peril, even to those who will hate you for it. Love your enemies, pray for those who persecute you. Put off all malice and deceit, all disgraceful and underhanded ways. Live before God and men with a a genuine and loving spirit. Even if people despise your integrity and mock your faith, be patient. Pray for them and hold fast to Christ with an honest and good heart.

**15As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience.**