

Cultivate #17

Cultivating A Kingdom Heart: Are You Listening?

Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. He told many stories in the form of parables, such as this one: Matthew 13:1-3 (NLT)

Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seeds. As he scattered them across his field, some seeds fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate them. Other seeds fell on shallow soil with underlying rock. The seeds sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. But the plants soon wilted under the hot sun, and since they didn't have deep roots, they died. Other seeds fell among thorns that grew up and choked out the tender plants. Still other seeds fell on fertile soil, and they produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, and even a hundred times as much as had been planted! Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." Matthew 13:2-9 (NLT)

This Parable Teaches Us...

1. Jesus' Kingdom Is For _____.

* Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand. Matthew 13:9 (NLT)

* Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand! Matthew 11:15 (NLT)

* But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear.
Matthew 13:16-17 (NLT)

2. The Heart Of The Matter Is A Matter Of The _____.

* Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.
Proverbs 4:23 (NIV)

MICHAEL CARD: A BETTER FREEDOM

CHRIST REVEALED HIMSELF TO ME ~ ENSLAVED MY SOUL TO SET ME FREE
I WAS BOUND TO AT HIM AT CALVARY ~ AND FOUND A BETTER FREEDOM

THAT SOUL WHO SUFFERED IN THE DARK ~ HAS PURCHASED AND UNCHAINED MY HEART
A SHINING SLAVERY DID IMPART ~ TO FIND A BETTER FREEDOM

A BETTER FREEDOM CAN'T BE FOUND ~ BY THOSE UNWILLING TO BE BOUND
A BETTER FREEDOM IS NOT KNOWN ~ BY THOSE WHOSE HEARTS WILL NOT BE OWNED
BUT THOSE WHO FOLLOW FIND A BETTER FREEDOM

WE NEVER CAN BE TRULY FREE ~ TILL WE'RE BOUND TO HIS COMMUNITY
THE INCARNATION LETS US SEE ~ A PATH TO BETTER FREEDOM

A SLAVE TO SIN, MY HEART BEFORE ~ WAS BOLTED LIKE A PRISON DOOR
BUT IN SLAVERY TO THE RISEN LORD ~ I FOUND A BETTER FREEDOM

*** May your kingdom come and your will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven.
Matthew 6:10 (NLT)**

i. oblivious _____ Heart/Soil.

*** The seed that fell on the footpath represents those who hear the message about the Kingdom and don't understand it. Then the evil one comes and snatches away the seed that was planted in their hearts. Matthew 13:19 (NLT)**

ii. Drink-The-Kool-Ade _____ Heart/Soil.

*** The seed on the rocky soil represents those who hear the message and immediately receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they don't last long. They fall away as soon as they have problems or are persecuted for believing God's word. Matthew 13:20-21 (NLT)**

iii. _____ Heart/Soil.

*** The seed that fell among the thorns represents those who hear God's word, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life and the lure of wealth, so no fruit is produced. Matthew 13:22 (NLT)**

*** Looking at the man, Jesus felt genuine love for him. "There is still one thing you haven't done," he told him. "Go and sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." At this the man's face fell, and he went away sad, for he had many possessions.**

Mark 10:21-22 (NLT)

*** Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God!" This amazed them. The disciples were astounded. "Then who in the world can be saved?" they asked. Jesus looked at them intently and said, "Humanly speaking, it is impossible. But not with God. Everything is possible with God." Mark 10:23-27 (NLT)**

iv. ----- Heart/Soil.

*** The seed that fell on good soil represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" Matthew 13:23 (NLT)**

*** At this point many of his disciples turned away and deserted him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe, and we know you are the Holy One of God." John 6:65-69 (NLT)**

Cultivate Step #17:

Take 20 minutes this week and sit by yourself quietly with God and just listen. And don't expect anything. Maybe read over the scriptures from this week's lesson. Just listen.

**Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.
Matthew 13:9 (NLT)**