



# NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH

With David Johnston



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## Who Am I And Why Am I Here?



1. What am I?
2. What will I become?
3. How will my future be determined?

Everyone needs to know the answer to the three vital questions. All of us have made enough blunders in life to ask ourselves these questions, and we have sinned enough in our lives to warrant serious questions about what we really are. Am I a failure? Am I any good, what am I? What will I become? We wonder if we will always be what we have been? Is there any hope for change? Will I have to spend the rest of my life trying to prove to myself and to others that I really am a somebody or that I really am something or that I really am special? Who will really care anyway? What am I and what will I become? I wonder if I am in control or out of control? Just what are the factors that will decide my future.

It seems like we start running into life, running into the future and then many of us half way through may start to wonder if we are even on the right track. Great poets and philosophers have pondered these kinds of thoughts through the years. I think it was Sir Walter Raleigh on the evening of his execution penned it this way and this is what he said, "What is this life, a play of passions, our mirth the music of division, our mother's wombs the ever tiring houses be where we are dressed for life's short comedy. The earth the stage and heaven the spectator is who sits and views whosoever doth act amiss. Someday from this earth, this grave, this dust, my God shall raise me up I trust."

We wonder what we are and what we will become and what are the factors that will determine our future. What are the answers to these questions? That is the question and what we will learn in this teaching. Jesus has the answers to these questions and these answers that He has have been given to us in a parable. It is the parable of a sower and some seed.

*And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake by a parable:*

*A sower went out to sow his seed:*

### 1. Wayside soil

*And as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.*

### 2. Stony soil

*And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture.*

### 3. Thorny soil

*And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.*

### 4. Good soil

*And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Luke 8:4-8)*

This is what the Scripture says, and He obviously had a good size crowd, *when much people were gathered together, and they were come to him out of every city, He spake by a parable.* This is how the parable begins and here is what He said, "a sower went forth to sow his seed." So we are on the threshold now of a story that is going to give us the answer to these questions. *As he sowed some of the seeds fell by the wayside and it was trodden down and the fowls of the air devoured it and then, some fell upon rocky soil, as there were rocks with a thin layer of soil on top of it, and as soon as the seed begin to spring up it withered away because it lacked moisture; and some fell among thorns and then the thorns spring up and choked it, and then other fell on good ground and sprang up and bear fruit one hundred fold. And when He had said these things He cried.* Can you imagine that? Wherever the Scripture says that Jesus cries, you want to pay special attention to that verse. *He cried, "he that had ears to hear, let him hear."*

Now I will never forget the fear that I had when I heard my first sermon on this parable of Jesus. The parable speaks of four kinds of soil which are the way side, the stony, the thorny, and the good soil. The preacher told us that only 25 percent of those who hear the gospel are really going to make it. Only 25 percent was good soil and the

other 75 percent were not going to make it. There were stony ground, wayside soil and thorny ground and only 25 percent was good soil.

I was raised in church, so at a very young age, I was plagued by these three questions, and it really comes down to just this one, "What kind of soil am I?" Am I wayside soil? Am I stony soil? Am I thorny soil? Am I good soil? What are my chances of being good soil? I only have a 25 percent chance of being good soil. Oh, what am I? What is the meaning of this parable? The disciples of Jesus wanted to know the meaning of this parable also and so they asked Jesus about it.

## The Meaning

***And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? (Luke 8:9)***

*And his disciples asked him saying what does this parable mean and Jesus began by saying, now the parable is this.* Now let me note here that Jesus does not often tell us the meaning of the parables, because in most cases the parables are designed to convey their meaning to us. In this story He wants to give us an explanation and this is how He explained the parable to them.

## The Sower

First of all, we need to understand in Matthew's account, that Jesus said, "*He that sows the good seed is the Son of man.*" I would like you to notice a few things and they are these, the seed is good seed, Jesus is the sower and that He is still sowing today. He is still sowing seed and He is doing this through you and me. He sows seed in churches and through anointed preachers all over the world. This is happening to you right now as seed is being sown into you as you are reading this. The seed being sown is good.

## The Seed

***Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. (Luke 8:11)***

This is what Jesus says about the seed. *The seed is the word of God.* It is what you are getting right now as sowing is taking place in you and this seed is so precious. I learned a long time ago there are four things you should do with the Scriptures. You should know the Word of God, know it in your heads, stow it in your hearts, show it on your face and sow it in the world. We are to know it, stow it, show it and sow it and that is what you ought to do with the Scriptures.

I want you to begin by grasping this and holding it in your heart and mind. There is nothing wrong with the seed. The seed always works. The Word always works. Isaiah put it this way when he said, quoting the Lord, "*so shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth it shall not return unto me void but it will accomplish that which I please and it shall prosper in the thing where unto I sent it.*" In fact, it

works so well that Isaiah said that when you get this Word it will so affect your life, that *you will go out with joy and you will be led forth with peace and the mountain and the hills will break forth into singing all the trees of the field will clap their hands. Instead of the thorn will come up the fir tree instead of the briar will come up myrtle tree and it shall be unto the Lord for name for an everlasting sign that shall never be cut out.* This will never change, and it is always going to be this way, if you get the Word, if you get the seed of God's Word in your heart and in your mind, it will always work because there is nothing wrong with the seed. The seed always works and the Word always works.

Make sure you get this down inside your heart, that the fate of the seed is determined by the condition of the soil. The fate of the Word is determined by the condition of the heart and mind. Now I do not want you to get nervous because this Word will always work. The Word never fails, *not one jot or tittle will pass away* Jesus said, *but My Word shall endure forever. His Word is forever settled in heaven,* and never changes it is always the same, because it is the Word of God.

The seed always works and the Word's fate is determined by the condition of the soil. The Word always works, but its fate is determined by the condition of the heart and mind. I do not want you to get nervous wondering what kind of soil you are. I have some really good news for you. We are going to look at the four soils and before we are finished, you are going to answer the those three questions and you will know what kind of soil you are. Again do not get nervous, this is really good news when you understand what Jesus was teaching.

## The Wayside Soil

***A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. (Luke 8:5)***

Jesus explained this as those by the wayside are the wayside soil. Let me explain to you what the wayside soil is. In those days, the people did not have wire fences as we have today. Paths were made around the fields or through the fields and those paths where the soil was trodden down were called a wayside for it was a pathway. Jesus is saying here that *those by the wayside are those that hear then comes the devil and takes the word out of their hearts lest they should believe and be saved.* They hear, but the soil has been trodden so much that the seed does not get inside the soil. The seed sits on the surface and the birds come and get it and take it away. The devil comes and takes the Word away. How is that possible? The wayside is the path that has been walked on and trodden down and in the same way a person's heart and mind can get walked on.

All kinds of things can tread upon our hearts. Music can tread on our minds, TV can tread, videos can tread, people

can tread on our heart and that is why *Jesus said take heed what you hear*. The headlines tread, the magazines tread, the books tread and we get so trodden upon that when the good seed comes along, it does not sink into the soil of our hearts, it just sits on the surface. We hear, but we do not hear and the devil comes to take away the Word and this is the wayside soil.

## The Stony Soil

***And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. (Luke 8:6)***

This is where the soil is upon the rock and is so thin because it has rock underneath. Here is what Jesus said about this kind of soil, *they on the rock are those which when they hear they receive the word with joy and these have no root however and for a while they believe but in time of temptation they fall away*. These are the emotional hearers of the Word. Scripture says that *they receive the Word with joy*. There is an emotional response and they believe for a while but they only believe while the feelings last. The initial enthusiasm gets subdued by pressure, testing, trials and temptations. The soil has rocks beneath it so that the roots of the Word cannot get deeper than the emotions to reach into the mind and more importantly, into the will, the heart and the spirit.

## The Thorny Soil

***And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. (Luke 8:7)***

Jesus tells us the meaning of the thorny soil. The seed starts to grow and thorns spurt up and begin to grow and choke the seed of the Word of God. He says that there are three things that choke the seed. The things that choke the seed are the cares, riches and the pleasures of this life. Three kinds of thorns choke and divide the allegiance of the person. In the morning when it is time to spend time in the Word, there are too many cares, so the Word gets set aside and the cares of life become the driving force. It could be because they are earning money or riches or maybe their job is so important to them and they are trying to maintain the riches that they have. They might be simply going out to play. You see the cares and the riches and the pleasures come. The Word was heard, but these things divide our attention and choke what the Word would have done in our life and the thorns take over.

## The Good Soil

***And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. (Luke 8:9)***

Jesus tells us that there is good soil and this is what he said about the good ground, *But they that are on the good ground they which with an honest and good heart having heard the*

*word they keep it and bring forth fruit with patience*. Now let us go back to our problem. It was my problem and it very well could be yours. The question is, which kind of soil am I? When I thought about it, the answer was not a very nice one, because I when I looked at my life, I saw that I was wayside soil. I had been trampled on. I knew that I was stony soil and I knew that I was thorny soil. I thought about these things and I could not come to the fact that I was good soil. I lived in fear about this for a long time.

One day I realized that there is no such thing as good soil. It just does not exist out there. You see good soil is just wayside soil that has been trampled on, but after it has been trampled on, if it gets plowed, then it becomes good soil. Maybe that is why the Scripture says *break up the fallow ground, for it time to seek the Lord*.

Near where I grew up as a child, there were fields surrounded with what looked like stone fences. I realized those were not stone fences, but that it was stony ground and the farmers moved the stones off the ground. They had stone pickers that were pulled behind horses and tractors to move the stones. Good ground is actually stony ground that has had the stones removed. If we will learn how to handle temptations, how to cope with pressure, and how to handle offenses, then we can become good ground.

Good ground is simply wayside soil that has been plowed or stony ground that has had the stones removed. If there are thorny weeds, then just pull the weeds and you have good ground. Good ground does not exist by itself. Good ground is over run with weeds or it has stones or it has been walked on.

The fact is that all of these soils are good ground, but they just need some diligent work. What kind of work do we need? Only you can prevent mental intrusion so do not let people or the media trample on your mind. Everything wants to get into your mind and heart and pound and pound on you. You walk into church on a Sunday morning and the Word is going forth and your mind is somewhere else, so what you hear does not stay with you. The Word does not stay because your minds has been walked on, so do not let people walk on your mind and you will not become wayside ground.

Then, learn to move the stones off of your ground. Learn how to handle the temptations and the persecutions, the offenses and the pressures that come to you. If you will remove the stones, what you find underneath them is good ground. In those fields that I spoke to you about were stone hedges around it and there in the middle of the field were the finest looking crops you ever could have seen, because the stones got moved.

Stony ground can become good ground. If it happens to be thorny ground, then all you have to do is pull the weeds. Pull out the wrong ideas, pull out the wrong thoughts. Tear them out by the roots and do away with them. If you get rid of the thorns, if you get rid of the weeds, you will be good

ground. When you become good ground, the seed will always work. The Word will always work in your life.

## The Answer To Three Important Questions!

The first question was, what am I? I want you to know today that you are good ground. You are good ground and you need to settle it once and for all. You could need some cultivating, some stone picking, and some weed pulling, but you have the potential of being good ground. The next question was, what will I become? The third question was, how will my future be determined? Remember that the fate of the seed is determined by the condition of the soil. The fate of the Word is determined by the condition of the heart and the mind. The Word will always work in your life. In closing I would like you to see just how good God intends his Word to work in you.

***But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (Matthew 13:23)***

This is in Matthew's account of the same parable. Other seed fell onto good ground and brought forth some one hundred fold, some sixty, and some thirty. Can you imagine what you would be like if you had thirty times as much peace as you have right now? Imagine having sixty times as much joy as you have right now. Can you imagine having a hundred times as much goodness in your life as you have right now?

The fact is that this will happen automatically if you look after the soil. The Word of God will always work in your life. Your part is to keep the soil of your heart and mind in good condition and then the seed of the Word will fall into the soil of your heart and it will be watered there by the Holy Spirit and your life will grow up in the gardens of the world and you will bring fragrance and blessing to everyone around you.

I do not know if you have been able to find the answers to the burning questions of the brain. I do not know what it is like when you put your head upon your pillow before you slip into that mystery we call sleep. I do not know the battles that you face. I do not know if like myself, you face these questions. What am I? Am I any good? Will I ever amount to anything? What is going to determine what I will be in the future?

If you have had those plaguing perplexing questions, I want to give you the good news. The good news is that you have better than 25 percent because good soil just does not exist. It is simply wayside soil that got trampled on. We are having people's minds trampled on today. Little children are having their minds trampled on at such young ages. That is why when people hear the Bible that there is

not very much interest and they are not motivated. Why? It is not because the Word of God is not alive and exciting and powerful, it is that there is just too much treading down. We are a trodden down group of people. Stop whatever forces are reading on your mind, your emotions, and your heart because when you do, then the seed will take root. You could have had some persecution or some stones and The Lord in His Scripture has ways for you to learn how to handle those things. These things will not be able to plague you anymore and you will know how to move the stones.

Then you can pull the weeds out as every farmer knows how to pull up weeds. There are no good crops without weeding. Weeding is really essential. Pull out the wrong ideas, pull out the wrong thoughts, and underneath all these three things and come to one solid conclusion. The conclusion is that you are really valuable. You are important and best of all, you are good ground.

If you will prepare the soil of your heart, then when these truths come to you, they will get inside of you and will literally cause you to multiply like Jesus told us, some thirty times as much, some sixty times as much and some a hundred times. Imagine being a hundred times better than you are right now. This will happen because you are good ground and all that you need to do is to work the soil and let the Word of God do the rest.



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“I write this to prevent you from being led astray by someone or other’s attractive arguments. As you live this new life, I pray that you will be strengthened from God’s boundless resources, so that you will find yourself able to pass through any experience and endure it with courage. You will even be able to thank God in the midst of pain and distress because you are privileged to share the lot of those who are living in the light. For we must never forget that he rescued us from the power of darkness, and re-established us in the kingdom of his beloved Son, that is, in the kingdom of light. For it is by his Son alone that we have been redeemed and have had our sins forgiven. I wish you could understand how deep is my care for you, and for all who have never met me. How I long that you may be encouraged, and find out more and more how strong are the bonds of Christian love. How I long for you to grow more certain in your knowledge and more sure in your grasp of God himself. May your spiritual experience become richer as you see more and more fully God’s great secret, Christ Himself! For it is in Him, and in Him alone, that men will find all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Just as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so go on living in Him - in simple faith. Grow out of Him as a plant grows out of the soil it is planted in, becoming more and more sure of the faith as you were taught it, and your lives will overflow with joy and thankfulness. Be careful that nobody spoils your faith through intellectualism or high-sounding nonsense. Such stuff is at best founded on men’s ideas of the nature of the world and disregards Christ!” (See Colossians 1-2)