

The Four Children: Introduction

I. Lessons from Jesus about Speaking Truth

A. Truth is Everything

- We must never add to or change God's Word. We're not allowed to communicate an easy-believism or prosperity gospel. It's a sin to suggest that all faiths lead to God. We must speak only the words of God we find in the Bible.
- But, though the Truth was always the same, Jesus rarely shared the Truth the same way.

B. Presentation is Almost Everything

- Jesus never did anything haphazardly or without purpose. If Jesus changed His approach, it must have been because He needed to. Now, we're going to spend a *lot* of time later looking at how He presented Truth differently to different people, but for now we need to move to the third lesson.

C. People Have Different Needs

- It was better for Jesus to meet some people alone by a well. Other people needed to have the Law quoted to them. Others needed to be openly condemned, and others need to be run out of the temple with a whip.

II. The 7 Characters in The Parable of the Soils

A. Seed

- The seed is a metaphor for God's Truth. Though the Bible isn't necessarily a living, breathing being in Its own right, the Word of God is alive. It's the written word of the living Lord Himself. The Truth being sown in this parable is primarily the gospel, but the four responses to Truth are similar regardless of what Truth is being discussed.

B. Sower

- Every one of us is commanded by God to speak His Truth to all creatures — primarily our children — and the most beautiful relationship in the home is not merely the family, but family members who are united both physically and spiritually in the family of God.

C. Satan - we'll learn more about his role next time.

D. Soils

- The four soils are Hard, Rocky, Thorny, and Good. And there are 4 things we're going to learn about each of them.
 1. **How they respond to Truth.**
 2. **Why they respond the way they do.**
 3. **How to speak the best Truth as Jesus did.**
 4. **Which of these hearts is the most dangerous.**

III. The “Brewster Version” of The Parable of the Soils

“Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path and [were] trampled underfoot, and the birds came and devoured them.

“Other seeds fell on rocky ground [the rock], where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away because [they] had no moisture.

“Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them, and [they] yielded no grain.

“Other seeds fell on good soil and grew and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.”

Then in each account Christ gives explains the purpose behind His using parables, and then He proceeds to explain the parable He just told.

“Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The sower sows the word.

“And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one [Satan] comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart so that they may not believe and be saved. This is what was sown along the path.

“As for what was sown on the rock, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself; [he] believe[s] [and] endures for a while, and in time of testing when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

“As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but as [he] go[es] on [his] way the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and pleasures of life and the desire for other things enter in and choke the word, and [his] fruit does not mature, and it proves unfruitful.

“As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it and accept[s] it [and] hold[s] it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear[s] fruit with patience. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Key: Matthew, Mark, Luke