

# ***Slinging Seeds***

*Long Beach Alliance Church • January 19, 2014 • Pastor Chris Lankford*

**Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field...**

**-1 Corinthians 3:7-9 (ESV)**

## **1) The Gospel Message Is For Everyone**

- A) Jesus Christ often used parables (short-ish stories with some sort of a Gospel-centered lesson), to teach crowds of people. Jesus did this to reveal the mystery of God's Kingdom to normal/simple people who would "hear and believe," rather than argue (Luke 8:9-10).
  
- B) In this very simple sense, Jesus intends the Gospel for the masses, not the religious elite. When we read about "crowds" (8:4), we can expect Jesus to immediately use His simple parable story-telling teaching style

## **2) The Gospel Faces Spiritual Opposition**

- A) The focus of Jesus' parable is on the sower, or in our vernacular, the farmer (8:5). The farmer loads up with seed, so much that some falls out onto the walking path, ending up trampled by man and eaten by birds.
  
- B) In the explanation of the parable (8:11-15), Jesus reveals the seed is the Word of God spilled out by those who proclaim the Gospel, but at times, the seeds of the Gospel are stolen away by Satan (8:11-12).

- C) In other words, wherever you find the Gospel, you will find Satan violently and actively opposing Jesus Christ. The spiritual battle is active, real, and can be deadly.
- D) Without a genuinely dependent prayer life in Jesus, you are powerless. This must come from a growing relationship with Christ, otherwise you are like a farmer who doesn't plant anything, starving and unemployed!

### **3) The Gospel Can Die If Not Nourished**

- A) The parable continues, noting that some seed falls into rocky soil, shallow and dry (8:6). Without nourishment, the Word of God might seem to show growth, but simply dies from exposure and lack of roots
- B) In other words, the first response to the Gospel is only the beginning (8:13). If the Gospel does not continue to grow deep and find nourishment, it dies. Like the Internet, not everything you read is actually true.
- C) Some of the Gospel seeds fall into soil with weeds, soil with thorns and thistles which choke nourishment from both the roots and the environment from growth (8:7).
- D) This seed seems to produce fruit for the farmer, but in reality, this is the two-faced spiritual church goer. Jesus is an aspect of life, but not the whole life. The heart is still very much in the world, choking out the Gospel, leaving an immature plant which painfully dies (8:14).

### **4) The Gospel Grows In Good Soil**

- A) Some Gospel seeds fall in good soil, producing ongoing fruit, which also carries seed (cue 'Circle of Life' song). These are people who are Gospel planted, Gospel rooted, Gospel growing, and Gospel producers (8:15).
- B) If you were growing something, where would you plant? How would you prepare soil for planting? Can the farmer cause growth? In which soil are you planted? In which soil are you planting?