

The sower – Pt 2 Seed sown on rocky ground – falls away

In our previous teaching we established that – (1) The sower sows seed which is the word of God, (2) some falls by the way side where i) Satan takes away the word from their heart, and ii) therefore they do not believe the word. This week we establish – (1) The sower went out to sow seed, (2) some fell upon rocky ground, where i) they hear, receive and believe the word and it immediately springs up, ii) however they have no root, lack moisture, iii) so endure for a time, but then in temptation they are offended and wither and iv) fall away.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded –

1. The sower went out to sow seed – the word of God

“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow” (Mk.4: 3), c.f. – Mk 4:14 “The sower soweth the word”.

2. Some seed fell upon rock/stony ground –

“And some fell upon a rock” Lk.8: 6 c.f. – Mk.4: 5 “And some fell on stony ground”.

i) They hear, receive and believe the word with gladness & it springs up,
“And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness” (Mk.4: 16) – c.f.– Ll.8: 6 “And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up.

ii) however, they have no root nor deepness of earth, and they lack moisture,
“Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth” (Matt.13:5) – c.f.– Lk.8: 6 “And ...it withered away, because it lacked moisture”.

iii) so they endure for a time but in temptation and affliction they are offended,
“And...so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended” (Mk 4:17).

iv) the end result – they fall away.

“They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy...and in time of temptation fall away” (Lk 8:13).

Illustration to help apply the teaching to our life.

The movie War Horse is set in an English countryside where the paddock left to sow seed to bring in money is mostly rock and stones. The horse is temperamental at best, and will not take a bridle. But the son eventually harnesses the horse and against all odds ploughs the stony ground to a point where the seeds can be sown.

Question to think about.

i) What are the two outcomes when seed falls on rock, or stony ground?

ii) What are three biblical remedies when sowing on rocky ground?

Our answer from the scriptures.

i) When seed falls on rock there is no moisture so it withers up and falls away.

ii) The three remedies for sowing on rocky ground, are – a) plough and break the clods of ground – Is.28: 24, then b) sow with tears – Ps.126: 5 & 6, then c) add that which is needed for growth – moisture and food (Is.40: 11 & Jn.21: 15).

If you are going to sow seed of the gospel be prepared to plough the ground, sow in tears and feed the lambs that they may grow in knowledge. Be encouraged to help in the work by prayer – preparing the ground for the seeds to be sown by those that preach, that others may come and water. And may God reward your labours with joy!