

Many Are Called, but Few Are Chosen (Luke 8:4-15; Mt.22:1-14)

In the parable of the sower we learn that the seed fell into several types of soil: the first one fell along the traveled path, the second fell on the rock, the third fell in the midst of the thorns, and the fourth and last one fell into good soil.

Therefore we have here four types of soils opened to the seed to fall in or on.

The first one was not only trodden underfoot, but was eaten by the birds. What can we understand by that? Our Lord Jesus explained that these are those who only heard the message. This group was called to hear the message. However the seed didn't penetrate in their hearts for the hardness of it. They heard the message, but they left it where they had heard vulnerable for the devil to take from their mind. They were called, but not chosen. The seed, the Word of God didn't have the chance to germinate life into their life to produce fruit. These were people just passing by, with no time to listen to consider and accept the message.

The second group are those who when heard the Word, they received and welcomed it with joy but just for as long as their emotions lasted. They too were called to hear the message and they accepted it for a time until the testing time came and they forsook the faith. These are the people with no time to read the Word to learn to walk in obedience and by faith. They are not chosen, they are just called. They do not abide in the vine from where they get their spiritual life.

The third group heard the message, but the cares of the world are to them thorn, which suffocates the message, although there will be fruit, it will not ripen. So these people who loved the world and its pleasures more than the Word of God, were only called, but not chosen. They abide in the world and in its pleasures, not in the vine. They are veiled with the cares of the world and they lack the knowledge and understanding of a life transformed and cleansed by the Word.

The fourth group is the good soil, where the seed fell and had a chance to germinate life into the person. These are the people who take the Word of God seriously to apply into their life. They live not for their pleasure, but to deny the flesh and its desires. They are like a tree firmly planted by the streams of water,

ready to bring forth its fruit in its season (Psalm 1:3). They are truly born again, born of the Spirit. They are not only called, but they are also chosen from before the foundation of the world to be molded into the image of God's Son (Rom.8:29). And to be consecrated and set apart for God. (Ephesians 1:4). They are heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, and recipients of all the spiritual blessings in Christ. (Ephesians 1:3). They are free from the curse of sin and delivered from slavery to fear into the love that transforms into the likeness of Christ the Lord, and nothing can separate them from this love. They bear fruit for the glory of God showing the true color of a follower of Christ.

And again Jesus spoke to them in parables saying, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son and sent his servants to summon those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they refused to come. Again He sent other servants, saying Tell those who are invited, Behold, I have prepared my banquet; my bullocks and my fat calves are killed, and everything is prepared; come to the wedding feast. But they were not concerned and paid no attention and they went away one to his farm, another to his business. Then He said to his servants, The wedding is prepared, but those invited were not worthy. Go to the thoroughfares where they leave the city and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find (Verse 8). This parable not only tells us of the rejection of the Messiah and the killing of the prophets by the Jewish nation, but also it speaks to us about the significance of being called but not being chosen. The rejection to the invitation to the wedding banquet sets the destination for those who rejected it. They were not chosen. One cannot participate of this wedding feast without the presence of the Holy Spirit in him. Their rejection of the calling marked their rejection of God to come into their life, in the person of the Holy Spirit. Without His sanctification one cannot see God. In the chapter fifty-five of Isaiah there is an invitation to those who are thirsty to the waters; there is an invitation to those who don't have money to buy and eat; to eat what is good by diligently listening to God; an invitation to submit to the divine will with the promise of the revival of the soul and an everlasting covenant. The blessings and the promises are only for those who accept the invitation to have their life transformed and sanctified by the dwelling of the Holy Spirit. And these will be the ones who are chosen,

separated unto God for salvation and service. Churches are full of members who are not chosen, but only called. They answer to the call, but continue in their old life, without the faith that leads to the bearing of fruit. Just like in the parable of the seed, this life is not chosen. They are bound by their burial wrappings and they are blind by the burial napkin bound around their face, and in that position they stay with no spiritual growth. To Jesus' call, one said, Let me bury my father first, to that Jesus answered, Let the dead bury their own dead. Another said, Let me first say good-bye to those at my home. To that Jesus said, No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God (Luke 9:59-62) . Many are called, but few are chosen. How do you fit in these positions, called, called and chosen?

Think about it.

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