

Lessons from the Sower: The Condition of the Soil



In the earlier part of His ministry, Christ had spoken to the people in words so plain that all His hearers might have grasped truths which would make them wise unto salvation. But in many hearts the truth had taken no root, and it had been quickly caught away. “Therefore speak I to them in parables.”
...Jesus desired to awaken inquiry. He sought to arouse the careless, and impress truth upon the heart.

{Christ Object Lessons 20.2}

Lesson 1: God teaches us with questions.

If you are having difficulty understanding spiritual things, don't give up! Ask Jesus to explain to you what is in His book and He WILL...

Lesson 2: God teaches us when we share what we know.

Share whatever you have, and you will actually learn more. You may not have all the answers, but you will want to learn them. You will realize your spiritual needs; He will arouse in you and in others a desire to study more.

Lesson 3: God teaches us through tribulation

Christ is the one who empowers us to make righteous decisions. Tribulation does one of two things:

- (1) Strengthens the roots of your faith as a committed Christian, or...
- (2) You realize a void in your relationship with Christ and your need to depend on Him instead of yourself!

This was the desire which Christ wished to arouse, that He might give them more definite instruction. He explained the parable to them, as He will make plain His word to all who seek Him in sincerity of heart. Those who study the word of God with hearts open to the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit, will not remain in darkness as to the meaning of the word.

{Christ Object Lessons 35.3}

Psalm 119:2 - Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart.

Jeremiah 29:13 - And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Psalm 10:4 - The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Matthew 6:33 - Seek ye first the kingdom of God and these things shall be added unto you.

Mysteries into which angels desire to look, which prophets and kings and righteous men desired to understand, the remnant church will carry in messages from God to the world. The prophets prophesied of these things, and they longed to understand that which they foretold; but to them this privilege was not given. They longed to see what we see, and to hear what we hear; but they could not. They will know all when Christ shall come the second time; when, surrounded by a multitude which no man can number, He explains the deliverance wrought out by the great sacrifice He made.

We must have more than an intellectual belief in the truth. **Many of the Jews were convinced that Jesus was the Son of God, but they were too proud and ambitious to surrender.** They decided to resist the truth, and they maintained their opposition. **They did not receive into the heart the truth as it is in Jesus.** When truth is held as truth only by the conscience, when the heart is not stimulated and made receptive, only the mind is affected. But when the truth is received as truth by the heart, it has passed through the conscience, and has captivated the soul with its pure principles. **It is placed in the heart by the Holy Spirit, who reveals its beauty to the mind, that its transforming power may be seen in the character.**—The Review and Herald, February 14, 1899. {Evangelism 291.1}

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Lesson 1: God teaches us with questions.

Lesson 2: God teaches us when we share what we know.

Lesson 3: God teaches us through tribulation.

Lesson 4: God teaches us that our ambitions can affect our relationship with Him.