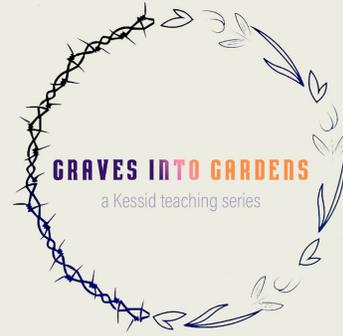


“WASABI WISDOM”
Date: August 16, 2020
Speaker: Danny Clinton



Graves into Gardens is a series about “Not just surviving difficult times, but thriving.”

(Vs) Jeremiah 29:4 – “Thus says the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce.”

Let’s spend this morning looking a bit deeper into this well carried on theme of ‘Planting’ in scripture...

- The Bible describes this as an important part of what it means to be a Christian...

Paul encourages people to... *(Vs) Col. 2:7 – “Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness.”*

Jesus himself says... *(Vs) John 15:5 – “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.”*

So, according to Jesus we really need to pay attention to this theme...

- So, the question becomes... Why?
- The Parable of the Sower (sometimes called the Parable of the Soils) is a parable of Jesus found in three of the four Gospels... Matthew Ch. 13

(Vs) Matt. 13:1-9 – “That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea....

- **Note:** This parable is rare as it’s one the few Jesus actually stops to explain...

Jesus explains to His disciples that the seed represents ‘The Gospel’... And the sower represents ‘anyone who proclaims it’...

- **Def:** The word *gospel* literally means “good news” ... and occurs 93 times in the Bible, exclusively in the New Testament.

According to the Scriptures; the Gospel theme of the whole Bible is the salvation of mankind through Christ... Good News!

(Vs) John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

He then goes on to describe four different responses to this gospel...

(Vs) Matt. 13:18-19 – “Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.”

Wayside: The “Wayside” prevents the seed from sprouting at all, and the seed becomes nothing more than bird food...

- The “Wayside” represents someone who is hardened by sin; he hears but does not understand the Word, and Satan plucks the message away, keeping the heart dull and preventing the Word from making an impression.

(Vs) Matt 13:20-21 – “As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”

Rocky Ground: The Rocky ground provides enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because there is “no deepness of earth,” the plants do not take root and are soon withered in the sun...

- This is a picture of a man who professes delight with the Word; however, his heart is not changed, and when trouble arises, his so-called faith quickly disappears.

(Vs) Matt. 13:22 – “As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.”

Thorny Ground: The thorny ground allows the seed to grow, but the competing thorns choke the life out of the beneficial plants...

- This is depicting someone who seems to receive the Word, but whose heart is full of riches, pleasures, and lusts; the things of this world take his time and attention away from the Word, and he ends up having no time for it.

(Vs) Matt. 13:21 “As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

Good Ground: The good ground receives the seed and produces much fruit.

- This is portraying the one who hears, understands, and receives the Word—and then allows the Word to accomplish its result in his life.
- **Note:** The man represented by the “good ground” is the only one of the four who is truly saved, because salvation’s proof is fruit.

Jesus is teaching us that...

- “A man’s reception of God’s Word IS determined by the condition of his heart.”
- “Salvation IS more than a superficial, albeit joyful, hearing of the gospel.”
- Someone who is truly saved will thrive in spite of the complexities...

Some things are difficult to plant and grow... Wasabi Plant

The Wasabi is a delicate plant that is related to the cabbage and horseradish. Farmers in Japan have been growing it for more than 400 years, but it dates back thousands of years used for medicinal purposes.

Fresh Japanese Wasabi is priced at about \$80 per lb. and considered the most difficult plant to grow in the world... The Wasabi plant needs 18 months of cultivation for it to reach maturity. The roots need about a foot of good moderated packed soil, not too hard-packed, soil and to have access to a constant flow of mineral and nutrient-rich water from the streams. In addition, it typically won’t thrive if the air temperature is below 8 degrees or above 20 degrees Celsius.

The roots of the seedlings are planted on a 45-degree angle in solid packed but not too tightly packed soil, so the force of the mountain stream doesn’t pull it out of the ground. You need pure water and sediment to reach the plant but too much is not good. It’s a careful balance that is present only in these mountains. This is the only way true Wasabi can be grown!

Question: Why do we need to pay attention to this theme in scripture around planting?

“Wasabi Wisdom”: Most restaurants that serve the unique and valuable dish of Wasabi don’t serve the real thing...

- They serve a fake version that most people don’t realize. It’s an imitation of the real thing. A fluorescent green condiment served alongside the sushi they’re eating. But the paste is usually just a dyed mixture of mustard and European horseradish.
- Because it is so difficult to plant and grow, the real thing is rare and hard to find. Relish it when you can find it...

We are supposed to be a Planted people - May we each embrace the complexities and nuances of our own planting.