

Questions for A Long Look At Salvation wk7

- Have you ever heard people argue about God's sovereignty and man's responsibility?
 - Do you think the debate will ever be resolved before we get to heaven?
 - Do you think that both parts can be true: God is sovereign, and man is responsible for his actions?
- If you are not as familiar with the parable of the sower and the soils, re-read it from Matthew 13 now.
 - Why is the statement "Whoever has ears, let him hear." more significant than we often think? What is Jesus saying about the parable He just told?
- The disciples were concerned that the parables were difficult to understand (as understood by the context). Why do you think they were so concerned? Was it for themselves? The people? For the sake of the kingdom?
 - We asked last week if people left churches due to difficult teachings, as we looked at John 6.
 - How does 2 Timothy address the question from last week, and fit into Jesus use of parables?
- When Jesus says "the knowledge of the kingdom has been given to you but not to them" Jesus is making a statement concerning God's sovereignty. Why would God open the eyes of some and not others?
 - Why would Jesus say that "whoever has will be given more, and whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away?"
- In verse 11 we have a display of God's sovereignty. In verse 13 we have a display of man's responsibility - they are spiritually dull, and hear but don't understand, see but don't see.
 - Why is it a compassionate act on Jesus part to conceal truth from the spiritually dull? What happens if the truth was not concealed?
- Most of us know the meaning of the parable: the seed is the good news of the kingdom, the hard soil sees Satan snatch away the truth because the soil is so hard, the rocky soil has no where for roots to grow and it dies, the thorny soil chokes out the truth, and the good soil yields fruit.
 - We often apply this parable to people that have never heard the gospel, and rightly so. What happens when we apply it to our own heart's condition?
 - "The same sun that hardens the clay, melts to ice." The key to a heart that is melting before the truth of God's Word is in the condition of the soil.
 - What does a Christian look like that has hard soil? What does a Christian look like that has shallow soil? Thorny soil? Good soil?
 - So where do you see yourself? What soil do you see yourself in? Hard? Shallow? Choked out by other concerns in life? Yielding fruit?
 - What are some things you can do to change the condition of your soil?
 - Did you realize the fertilizing material is also known as humus?

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- Interesting that it shares the same root word with humility. Why is humility such a key component in having good soil for Christ?
- Have you ever confused the results of the gospel in life with the gospel itself?
- Acts 2:42-47 lists many results of the gospel. How have Christians mistaken those things for the gospel?
- How do we keep the gospel and it's results straight?