

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Parable of the Sower

The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the seaside.

And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.



And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold a sower went forth to sow;

And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up;

Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

—Matthew 13:1-9.

The interpretation of this parable is given by Christ Jesus himself, beginning with the 19th verse of the same chapter. He says that "he which received seed by the wayside" refers to one who "heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not." Such seed is devoured by the fowls, or is completely lost to him who had "received seed by the wayside." The "seed" or "word of the kingdom" is Truth, and can be understood only by those who have unfolded their dormant spiritual powers sufficiently. There are people in the world today, even two thousand years since Christ Jesus spoke on Earth, who are not capable of understanding the message of love and service which is the basis of Christianity. They are the most

backward of humanity, but fortunately for them, they may take advantage of the Christ's coming as the indwelling planetary Spirit of the Earth and recover the ground they have lost on the evolutionary Path.

The second class, "He that received the seed into stony places," "is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while."

These are the people who can intellectually grasp the verity of spiritual truths, but who have not yet developed the heart faculties sufficiently to "live the life." The testing times always come, for those who are unconsciously on the Path, as well as for those who are dedicated aspirants. If they lack the strength that arises from a heart filled with kindness and consideration for others, then these times of "tribulation" are too much for them. Intellectual comprehension must be coupled with an inner yearning for serving others before the "seed" can bear fruit.

The third class, who "received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful." These are the people who give way to their lower desires and are led astray into the world of materialism and sensuality. They must learn to conquer the lower nature and direct their creative energies into higher channels before the Spirit of Truth can shine through them to light the world.

The fourth class, "he that received seed into good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit . . ." These are the pioneers of humanity, those who

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Sagittarius is apt to prompt impulsive action, probably in sports, which can result in bodily injury, particularly to the hips and thighs. Well aspected, this position is excellent for health, and favors debaters, lawyers, and entertainers; but if afflicted accidents and blood disorders are likely. By reflex action in Gemini, coughs and bronchitis may manifest.

Since Mars is exalted in the cardinal-earth sign, Capricorn, it inclines the native to direct his energies wisely so that longevity is encouraged. It gives indomitable courage and sustained persistence, so that obstacles are overcome and one's goal achieved—often a position high in public life. This of course reacts favorably upon the health. However, if afflicted, Mars here may express in rashness, dishonesty, and vindictiveness, as well as in such diseases as erysipelas, smallpox, measles, itch, and other eruptive skin diseases.

In the fixed-air sign, Aquarius, ruled by Uranus and Saturn, Mars gives mental keenness, intuition, and mechanical ability, if well aspected. If afflicted in Aquarius, Mars gives a tendency toward varicose veins, blood poisoning, eye trouble, and nervous diseases. By reflex action in Leo, there may be palpitation of the heart.

Mars in the common-water, Neptune-ruled sign, Pisces, is not at its best. It has little in common with either water or spirituality. However, when well-aspected, it suggests ability as a detective, warden in a prison, or doctor in a hospital, or in some other position where the native exercises authority in an obscure or hidden manner. If the native's energies are whole-heartedly directed toward the attainment of high spiritual ideals, this position can be a great help in penetrating the invisible worlds in a conscious manner. If afflicted, Mars in Pisces may indicate deformities of the feet or accidents to them, corns, bunions, or drunkenness, or by reflex action in Virgo, inflammation of the bowels.

"PEACE BE UNTO YOU"

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near that anyone approached Him. He turned His clear eyes toward Thomas and spoke:

"Thomas Didymus, reach hither thy finger and behold my hand. Reach hither thy finger and thrust it into my side, and be not faithless but believing."

The abashed Thomas dropped to his knees.

"My Lord and my God," he said humbly.

Without realizing what he did, Malchus also dropped to his knees, and in a low trembling voice he echoed the words of Thomas: "My Lord and my God."

MAX HEINDEL'S MESSAGE

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turn to America. As I sat in my chair ruminating over my disappointment, the feeling that some one else was present came over me, and I looked up and beheld the One who has since become my Teacher. With shame I remember how gruffly I asked who had sent him and what he wanted, for I was thoroughly disgruntled, and I hesitated considerably before accepting his help on the points that had caused me to come to Europe.

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W. W. BIBLE STUDY

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have diligently striven to unfold their inner powers by helping and loving their fellow men. Both head and heart faculties are developed, and they bring forth the fruit of lives lived according to Cosmic Law.