

# ARE YOU, WHO YOU SAY YOU ARE?

## Matthew 13 & Isaiah 6:5-10

### Introduction:

Today there are many people who are under the false illusion that they have been set aside for a wondrous and glorious time with the Lord to come.

Much of their time is still spent on themselves, as they focus on their glory of their lives that they now live here on this earth at this time?

It can be so easy to say that you are in fact a believer, but have never really giving it a thought about whether you may in fact be wrong.

Life seems to go on as normal with only a bump here and there in the road which represents any kind of self service to the Lord.

➤ For instance what would you call sin and what would you call ok to do?

1. You could measure the lives of many people who say that they love the Lord by the amount of times they even mention the name of the Lord to others.

A time of complacency has crept in over many people in this day and age and the thought of ever being wrong or out of fellowship with the Lord has not even crossed their mind.

But has not the scriptures concluded that we ought to make our calling and election sure?

### 2 Peter 1:9-11

<sup>9</sup> But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

<sup>10</sup> Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

<sup>11</sup> For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

I can't but help think that this has become the norm for many folk as a result of not paying attention to the scriptures and the very words of our Lord, who said "Have I not chosen you".

### John 15:16

Ye have not **chosen** me, but I have **chosen you**, and ordained **you**, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it **you**.

Sadly, many still think that because they have done something worthy of a biblical standard that they are in the Lord. Instead they ought to let the fear of

the Lord bring them to their knees as they reflect on themselves as sinners in need of a great Saviour.

### **2 Chronicles 19:7**

Wherefore now let the fear **of** the LORD be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor **respect of persons**, nor taking **of** gifts.

### **Romans 2:11**

For there is no **respect of persons** with God.

We cannot and should not adopt the attitude of self made righteousness as if we are the ones looking after our own salvation. But instead we should be approaching the Lord in His Grace and calling on His mercy to “save us from our sins”.

1. Remember how subtle the serpent was to Eve in the garden.

### **Genesis 3:1**

Now the **serpent** was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

### **Genesis 3:4**

And the **serpent** said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

### **Genesis 3:13**

And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The **serpent** beguiled me, and I did eat.

2. There is no excuse for unrighteousness, and God is no respecter of persons.

## **HOW CAN WE SEE.....**

**John 12:41** <sup>41</sup> These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

### **Isaiah 6:5-11**

<sup>5</sup> Then said I, **Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.**

<sup>6</sup> Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:

<sup>7</sup> And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

<sup>8</sup> Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

<sup>9</sup> And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not.

<sup>10</sup> **Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.**

➤ We are later reminded by Isaiah the prophet in

### **Isaiah 64:6**

<sup>6</sup> But we are all as an unclean thing, **and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags**; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

### **Matthew 13:14**

<sup>14</sup> And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

We find here in Matthew 13:1ff, our Lord is revealing the OT scriptures to a great multitude of people gathered together to hear our Lord speak in the NT times.

1. These are the same kind of people which had not changed just as in the times of Isaiah before they were exiled to Assyria and Babylon.
2. It shows us that even today that there are a multitude of people who are following these great and terrible testimonies of self made men. It did not matter to them even though they were hearing the truth, their eyes and ears were closed.
3. There are a people today who refuse to follow the truth even though they have heard the truth yet they fail to embrace it, let alone follow after it.

Our Lord taught in parables. Thereby the things of God were made more plain and easy to those willing to be taught and at the same time more difficult and obscure to those who were willingly ignorant.

➤ The parable of the sower is plain. **The seed sown is the word of God.**

### **Matthew 13**

<sup>1</sup>The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup> And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

➤ **The sower is our Lord Jesus Christ, by himself, or by his ministers.**

1. Preaching to a multitude is like sowing the seed; we don't know where it will fall.
2. Some type of ground, though we take great care with it, brings forth no fruit to purpose, while the good soil brings forth plentifully.
3. So it is with the hearts of men, whose different characters are here described by four sorts of ground.

**(Luke 8:11<sup>11</sup> Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.)**

<sup>4</sup> And when he sowed, **some seeds fell by the way side**, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

1. Careless, trifling hearers, are an easy prey to **Satan; who, as he is the great murderer of souls, so he is the great thief of sermons**, and will be sure to rob us of the word, if we don't take heed to it.

<sup>5</sup> **Some fell upon stony places**, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

2. Hypocrites, like the stony ground, they often get the start of true Christianity in the shows of their profession.
3. Many are glad to hear a good sermon, but do not profit by it.
4. They are told of free salvation, of the believer's privileges, and the happiness of heaven; and, without any change of heart, without any abiding conviction of their own depravity, their need of a Saviour, or the excellence of holiness, they soon profess an unwarranted assurance. But when some heavy trial threatens them, or some sinful advantage may be had, they give up or disguise their profession, or turn to some easier system.

<sup>6</sup> And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

<sup>7</sup> **And some fell among thorns**; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

1. **Worldly cares are fitly compared to thorns**, for they came in with sin, and are a fruit of the curse; they are good in their place, but a man must be well armed that has much to do with them; that don't become entangled. The scriptures have some warning on this in Hebrews.

**Hebrews 6:8** But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

2. Worldly cares are great hindrances to our profiting by the word of God. The deceitfulness of riches is what does the harm when we let it lead us astray; But they cannot be said to deceive us unless we put our trust in them, then they choke the good seed.

<sup>8</sup> **But other fell into good ground**, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

1. What distinguished the **good ground was fruitfulness**.
2. By this **true Christians** are distinguished from hypocrites (charlatans).
3. Jesus Christ does not say that this good ground has no stones in it, or no thorns; but none that could hinder its fruitfulness.
4. All are not alike; but we should aim at the highest, to bring forth most fruit.

<sup>9</sup> Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

1. The **sense of hearing** cannot be better employed than in **hearing God's word**.

<sup>10</sup> And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

<sup>11</sup> He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

<sup>12</sup> For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

<sup>13</sup> Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

<sup>14</sup> **And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**

<sup>15</sup> **For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.**

<sup>16</sup> **But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.**

<sup>17</sup> For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

<sup>18</sup> Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

<sup>19</sup> When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

**(Luke 8: <sup>12</sup> Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.)**

<sup>20</sup> But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

<sup>21</sup> Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

**(Luke 8: 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.)**

<sup>22</sup> He also that 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.

**(Luke 8: 13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.)**

<sup>23</sup> But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

**(Luke 8: 15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.)**

- In the Parallel book of Mark we see the same passages of scriptures with varying additional details.

#### **Mark 4**

4 And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

<sup>2</sup> And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

<sup>3</sup> Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow:

<sup>4</sup> And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up.

<sup>5</sup> And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth:

<sup>6</sup> But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

<sup>7</sup> And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

<sup>8</sup> And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

<sup>9</sup> And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

<sup>10</sup> And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable.

<sup>11</sup> And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

<sup>12</sup> That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.

<sup>13</sup> **And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable? and how then will ye know all parables?**

<sup>14</sup> **The sower soweth the word.**

<sup>15</sup> And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

<sup>16</sup> And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

<sup>17</sup> And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

<sup>18</sup> And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

<sup>19</sup> And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

<sup>20</sup> And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

➤ **With the parable of the sower in mind.**

There are possibilities then of 4 kinds of people that believed. These may even be found in a church.

**Matthew 13:**

1. Some seeds fell by the wayside. Verse 4 & verse 19.
2. Some fell upon stony places. Verse 5 & verse 20,21
3. Some fell among thorns. Verse 7 & Verse 22.
4. Other fell into good ground. Verse 8 & Verse 23.

- **We should always examine ourselves in light of the scriptures to see whether we are of the faith.**

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

**Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves.**

Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

As our Lord spoke these words to the multitudes in Matthew 13:14-15, he revealed the truth of the scriptures by referring back to Isaiah 6:5-11.

1. People are hard of hearing, not because they can't physically hear or physically see, but because their heart has made them spiritually deaf and spiritually blind.
2. Thus for those people he spoke to in the parable it would have meant nothing to them, just as if it would be spoken today.

✓ **Can you hear? Spiritually.**

✓ **Can you see? Spiritually.**

➤ Then the question is?

➤ **How has that impacted your life then?**

PRAYER.....