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| 1  INTRO:  Subject of God’s sovereignty + Genuine Call  -Often pit together  -Either/or instead of “both/and”  Wouldn’t it be disingenuous/deceptive call?  -Answer: no  -Example: If you broke both leg and call to walk to  me  Can’t walk because unable to  Jesus: “Let him who has ears to hear, hear”  Jesus gets into boat again because of big crowds  -Back in Mark 3:23 Jesus begins in parables  -Parables sign of judgment  -Outsiders becomes insiders and vice versa  Jesus is rejected and most who follow Him are not true disciples | 2  Why does most reject Him?  -Jesus gives parable of sower to answer why from a  divine and eternal perspective  Should be “parable of soils” instead of “sower”  Verse 4: The Hard Heart  Soil packed down hard and trampled on  -uncultivated  -birds follow close behind and swoop it up  VV. 14-15 Sower=God  Seed=Word of God  Birds=Satan  So hardened in unbelief that it doesn’t even get sown in the heart  -No germination  -No union with the soil  -Satan can rip it away from them  Like those in Acts 17:2 who “sneer” at resurrection |
| 3  Others responded “we shall hear you again concerning this”  -But others were completely shut off to the  message  Like the road, their hearts have been trampled by sin over and over again  -willful sinning  Did you know sin has a deadening and numbing effect on your soul?  Hebrews 3:12-13  *“Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”*  Like King Jehoiakim, the son of Josiah! (after reforms of Josiah) who sliced and burned Scripture in Jer. 36 | 4  Do you have a heart that sneers at Jesus Christ?  If so you are in danger of having Satan snatch away what little seed you have at the door of your heart  Is your heart cultivated for the Lord or uncultivated because you let sin trample on your heart week after week?  What about the second type of soil in verse 5?  The Shallow Heart  Fell upon rocky ground  -Immediately springs up but no foundation  Because there is a layer of rock, seed spring forth up instead of down and it appears to be healthy  -But no root  -When sun comes it scorches and kills the plant  -No adequate water or nutrients  These people’s faith is only temporary |
| 5  You could see it as an emotional response to the gospel  -because of friends who believe  -they like forgiveness and heaven but they pass  over obedience and the cost  -they want grace, but not costly grace  -they want discipleship but not a costly one  Appearance of a believer  -go to church  -go to bible study/small group  -learn how to speak christianese  But when hardships and trials come, they abandon the faith.  -Realize Christianity is too costly for them  Jesus said to count the cost  Luke 14:26-33  -Make sure you can pay for the building of a tower  -Make sure you can defeat the bigger army | 6  The gospel did not penetrate deep into the soil of heart  -They were not broken over their sin, weeping,  penitent  -Matthew 5: “Blessed are those who mourn, for  they shall be comforted  You don’t want to appeal to someone’s emotions because emotions can be manipulated  -So many seeker-sensitive churches seeking to  make sinners feel good about their sin and self  Ecclesiastes 7:1-3  *“And the day of one’s death is better than the day of one’s birth.*  *It is better to go to a house of mourning Than to go to a house of feasting, Because that is the end of every man, And the living takes it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, For when a face is sad a heart may be happy.”* |
| 7  Now people should come to Christ with joy, but it is a joy and happiness that comes from a restored relationship with the Father. From having your sins wiped clean by the blood of Christ.  From knowing that though you deserve hell, you gained heaven.  These people don’t see benefit of being a Christian  2 Tim. 3:12  *“Indeed, all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”*  John 6 When Jesus started talking about eternal life through His death and the necessity of eating his body and drinking his blood | 8  Jn 6:60  *“Therefore many of his disciples, when they heard this said, “This is a difficult statement, who can listen to it?”*  Came to Jesus for miracles, healings, and free meals  but stopped after Jesus talked about cost of discipleship  Why are you a Christian?  Why do you come to church?  Right things to do?  Family is Christian?  Americans should be Christians?  Christians are nice around you?  To be morally good and stop drinking?  Politically conservative  Millions come to Christ for reasons other than because they have offended a holy God |
| 9 They fade away because Christianity is not making life easier for them but harder  Some of you going through hard trials right now  -health  -family  Remember Christians are viewed as nutcases?  -Trials is one of them  Why do you still believe in Christ after what you are going through?  -Why don’t you be like Job’s wife and curse God  and die!?  Because you know that God disciplines us because He loves you and wants to sanctify you  -Like on an anvil being hammered  -Or like gold refined of its impurities | 10  Hebrews 12:4-11  *“You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin; and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons,*  *“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him; For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives.”*  *It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live?* |
| 11  *For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness. All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.”*  Trials will either make or break you.  It will draw you either closer to God or away from God.  Like the sun that revealed that the plant had no roots, trials will reveal how deep your roots are in Jesus Christ.  We saw the hard soil. We saw there can be shallow soil. And there is a third type of soil. Verse 7 The Divided Heart  Read verse 7 | 12  Many of you can relate  Weeds choke out other plants  -Suck nutrients away  -Absorbs sun and blocks others from receiving it  Jenny Wood told me one day she has to practically pull out weeds every day  -Weeds at my own house is so much!  These people hear the Word but already have an affection and desire for other things  -Too attached to world  Jesus is fine and ok but  -bigger house, motorcycle, car  Christianity thing is fine but I can’t let go of certain possessions that I have.  I need to climb corporate ladder no matter what and achieve success |
| 13  Luke 9:60  “Let the dead bury their own dead”  “Allow me to bury my father”=euphemism for wanting to have his dad’s inheritance  Divided Heart = 2 Chronicles 25 King Amaziah  “Did right in the sight of the Lord, yet not with a whole heart”  -Wanted best of both worlds  Ex: Executed potential conspirators and almost executed sons  Deuteronomy 24:16 “Fathers shall not be put to death for sons, nor sons be put to death for fathers, but each shall be put to death for his own sin.”  But he nonetheless murdered people!  -He was paranoid! | 14  He did right in the sight of the Lord by gaining victory over Edom but barbarically executed his captives by throwing them off a cliff  He defeated an enemy, but he started the worshipping the idols of that enemy nation  King Amaziah had a divided heart. He externally showed interest in following God, but his heart was never for the Lord. He was following his own passions and lusts  Jesus said, “you cannot serve both God and money (or mammon), you will either hate the one or love the other”  No such thing as two masters  Arguable that this soil is hardest to detect in church  -Know right things to say  -Acknowledge right doctrine  -Stay a “Christian” for the rest of life but never  showing fruit |
| 15  They come to church week after week, listen to convicting messages  -Bigger voices in head than Christ’s  No fruit because not abiding in Christ  John 15  *“As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me”*  “Deeds of the flesh” Gal. 5:19  “Immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing and things like these”  Are you like King Amaziah?  You do some things that are right in the sight of the Lord, but not with a whole heart? | 16  Do you have an affection for Christ, but an even bigger affection for the things of this world?  1 John 2:15-17 says, *“do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.”*  Christ demands wholehearted obedience to Him.  He doesn’t demand some but all  -Eternal destiny depends on it  -John the Baptist “Any tree that does not bear fruit  will be cut down and thrown into the fire”  -All three soils represent unbelievers  There are those who do hear the gospel and receive it |
| 17  Tremendous yield: 30x 60x 100x = incalculable effectiveness of believers  -supernatural work of God  Wholehearted joyful obedience from knowing that Christ died for their sins  Notice that seed is the same = Word of God  Outcome was determined by condition of soil  Famous preacher: “The same sun that melts the wax hardens the clay”  Before telling this parable, Jesus responds in verses 11-13 of disciples asking about parables  Parables was a sign of judgment to conceal truth from the proud and reveal truth to the humble  Matt. 13:11 Disciples follow Christ because it has been “granted” to them but not granted to others | 18  Matthew 16:15-17 Peter’s confession  “You are the Christ the Son of the living God. And Jesus said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Barjona because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven”  Jesus further reinforces this truth with Isaiah 6:9-10  Response of Pharisees and scribes were ordained by God ultimately  But God is not author of evil or unbelief  James 1:13 “For God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone”  God’s sovereignty over salvation does not take away human responsibility  Isaiah 10  Assyria to punish Israel but punishes Assyria |
| 19  Turn to Isaiah 10:5-12  Notice verse 7 says Assyria did intend to punish Israel because of disobedience to God  That is why “Woe to Assyria, the rod of my anger”  -Personally responsible for sins against Israel  Or the case with Pharaoh where interplay between God hardening and Pharaoh hardening his own heart  Even death of Christ in Acts 2:23  “this man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to the a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death  What does this parable mean for you believer?  Although God is sovereign you are to proclaim good news  -Divine vs human perspective on election  -we do not know  If humans ultimately decide, evangelism would be discouraging, dare I say pointless | 20  If God is chooses, evangelism is encouraging and hopeful  Like a ripe apple ready to just fall into salvation at a touch  You should greatly rejoice in your salvation because God has been merciful and kind to you  Do you know how much God has been kind to us?  -Even saving one sinner is kindness  -we should be in hell  Unbeliever: Turn to Christ  God is mighty to save and is powerful enough to overcome your willful unbelief  He alone can save and you can trust this kind God that nothing can snatch you out of the Father’s hand  Mark 9: “I believe, help my unbelief!” |