

Welcome to Promise Land Bible Church
We're glad you're here!



Nothing but the Blood

Hymn 266



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We're glad you're here!**





Call to Worship

Psalm 70

Psalm 70 To the choirmaster. Of David, for the memorial offering. Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O LORD, make haste to help me! Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt! Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!" May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!" But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

Jesus Paid it All

Hymn 273



I Surrender All

Hymn 408





Praise and Prayer Request

All Prayer request can be e-mail to:

plbiblechurch@gmail.com

***We would love to pray for God's will to be done
your life and for His Name to be glorified in and
through you, as you seek His Holy Face!***

Receiving of the Offering



**An offering for the Church can be mailed to:
Promise Land Bible Church
PO Box 1437
Mountain Home, AR 72653**

Famous Quote:

“I do not believe that any man can preach the gospel who does not preach the Law.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

An open book is shown from a low angle, looking up at the pages. The pages are filled with small, dense text, likely a Bible. The book is set against a bright blue sky with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black font.

Today's Message

“Parable of the Seed and the Sower”

Scripture text: Mark 4:1-20

Mark 4:9-14 And he said, "**He who has ears to hear, let him hear.**" And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "**To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that "they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven."** And he said to them, "**Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?** The sower sows the word.

This parable helped the disciples understand why Jesus was not impressed by the large crowds that followed Him. **He knew that most of them would never produce fruit from changed lives**, because the Word He was teaching them was like seed falling into poor soil.

The seed represents God's Word (Luke 8:11) and the sower is the servant of God who shares that Word with others (see 1 Cor. 3:5–9). The human heart is like soil: it must be prepared to receive the seed before that seed can take root and produce a harvest. Like seed, the Word is alive and able to produce spiritual fruit, but **the seed must be planted and cultivated before that harvest will come.**

1 Corinthians 3:4-9 For when one says, "I follow Paul," and another, "I follow Apollos," are you not being merely human? What then is Apollos? What is Paul? **Servants through whom you believed, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.** So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but **only God who gives the growth.** He who plants and he who waters are one, and **each will receive his wages according to his labor.** For we are **God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.**

As in that day, so today, there are four kinds of hearts and they respond to God's message in four different ways.

The hard heart (Mark 4:4, 15) resists the Word of God and makes it easy for Satan (the birds) to snatch it away. Soil becomes hard when too many feet tread on it. **Those who recklessly "open their hearts" to all kinds of people and influences are in danger of developing hard hearts (see Prov. 4:23).** Hard hearts must be "plowed up" before they can receive the seed, and **this can be a painful experience (Jer. 4:3; Hosea 10:12).**

Proverb 4:23 Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life.

Jeremiah 4:3 For thus says the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem: "**Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.**

Hosea 10:12-13 Sow for yourselves righteousness; reap steadfast love; **break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain righteousness upon you.** You have plowed iniquity; you have reaped injustice; you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your own way and in the multitude of your warriors,

Genesis 15:10-14 And he brought him all these, cut them in half, and laid each half over against the other. But he did not cut the birds in half. And **when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.** As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell on Abram. And behold, dreadful and great darkness fell upon him. Then the LORD said to Abram, "Know for certain that your offspring will be sojourners in a land that is not theirs and will be servants there, and they will be afflicted for four hundred years. But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions.

The shallow heart (vv. 5–6, 16–17).

This heart is like thin soil on a rock, very typical to Palestine. Since there is no depth, **whatever is planted cannot last because it has no roots.** This represents the “**emotional hearer**” who joyfully accepts God’s Word but **does not really understand the price that must be paid to become a genuine Christian.** There may be great enthusiasm for several days or weeks; but when persecution and difficulties begin, the enthusiasm wanes and the joy disappears. It is easy for fallen human nature to counterfeit “**religious feelings**” and give a professed Christian a feeling of false confidence.

Mark 4:16-17 And these are the ones **sown on rocky ground**: the ones who, when they hear the word, **immediately receive it with joy**. And they have no root in themselves, but **endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away**.

Matthew 5:11-12 "Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and **utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account**. **Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.**

2 Timothy 3:10-13 You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, **my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra--which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,** while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

1 Peter 4:12-13 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.** But rejoice insofar as you share Christ's sufferings, that you may also rejoice and be glad when his glory is revealed.

The crowded heart (vv. 7, 18–19).

This heart pictures the person who receives the Word but **does not truly repent and remove the “weeds” out of his or her heart.**

This hearer **has too many different kinds of “seeds” growing in the soil**—worldly cares, a desire for riches, a lust for things—and **the good seed of the Word has no room in which to grow.**

To change the image, **this person wants to walk the “broad way” and the “narrow way” at the same time (Matt. 7:13–14); and it cannot be done.**

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Mark 4:13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

This parable is the Key to understanding all parables, not everyone who says they are a Christian, actually knows Jesus. Remember John 17:3

The fruitful heart (vv. 8, 20).

This heart pictures the true believer, because fruit—a changed life—is the evidence of true salvation (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 5:19–23).

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Hence, a CHANGED LIFE!

There should be new desires, wants, and all to the Glory of Almighty God.

The other three hearts produced no fruit, so we conclude that they belong to persons who have never been born again.

Not all true believers are equally as productive; but from every genuine Christian's life, there will be some evidence of spiritual fruit.

Each of the three fruitless hearts is influenced by a different enemy:

the hard heart—the devil himself snatches the seed;

the shallow heart—the flesh counterfeits religious feelings;

the crowded heart—the things of the world smother the growth and prevent a harvest.

These are the three great enemies of the Christian: the world, the flesh, and the devil (Eph. 2:1–3).

Ephesians 2:1-3 And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, **following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience-- among whom **we all once lived in the passions of our flesh**, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and **were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.**

1 John 2:15-17 Do not love the world or 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 desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but **whoever does the will of God abides forever.**

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, **but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.**

He Touch Me

Hymn 628

