

AFTER EASTER

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

*For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that, He appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. Then he appeared to James (His brother), then to all the apostles, and last of all he appeared to me (Paul) also, as to one abnormally born."*

1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (NIV)

*When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven. Then they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.*

Luke 24:50-53 (NIV)

*Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means. While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown." When he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, "though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.'" "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."*

Luke 8:1-15 (NIV)

1<sup>st</sup> - Those that are HARD-HEARTED.

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up... Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved." (vs.5,12)*

2<sup>nd</sup> - Those that are FAINT-HEARTED.

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed... Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture... Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away." (vs.5a,6,13)*

3<sup>rd</sup> - Those that are HALF-HEARTED

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed... Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants... The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature." (vs.5a,7,14)*

4<sup>th</sup> - Those that are WHOLE-HEARTED

*"A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed... Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown... But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop." (vs. 5a,8,15)*

1. The "Good Soil" is RICH.

*Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming.*

Ephesians 4:14 (NIV)

2. The "Good Soil" is DEEP.

*"If you work God's Word into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who dug deep and laid the foundation of his house on bedrock. When the river burst its banks and crashed against the house, nothing could shake it; it was built to last."*

Luke 6:48 (MSG)

3. The "Good Soil" is CLEAN.

*Flee the evil desires of youth, and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2 Timothy 2:22 (NIV)

4. The "Good Soil" is FERTILE.

*"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit--fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name."*

John 15:16 (NIV)