

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Parable of the Sower

Behold a sower went forth to sow.

And when he had sowed, some seeds fell by the wayside, and the fowls came and devoured them up.

Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprang 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 sprang up, and choked them.

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

Matthew 13:3-8

In this parable Christ Jesus referred not only to the spiritual truths which humanity in general had such need of at the time of His three years' ministry, but He also gave a description of different types of people and their reactions to His teachings. The attitude of the first three classes which He describes accounts for the fact that such a large part of humanity were at the point of retrogression when the Christ Ray came into the earth as its indwelling planetary Spirit.

There were then, as now, many people who have made so little effort and progress along spiritual lines that they do not understand when someone talks to them of the spiritual laws underlying existence. Since the time, aeons and aeons ago, that the virgin spirits were differentiated within God and started in their dip into matter, many have exerted their divine powers so slightly and become so enmeshed in materiality that they have lost the realization of being spiritual beings and respond little to the voice of the Higher Self. The subversive forces are in constant action to lead this class, which constitutes those who "received seed by the wayside," away from the uplifting influences which could place them among the more advanced.

There is another type of people who

are unstable, not having the fixity of purpose or strength of character to retain spiritual teachings and pattern their lives by them, even though they may accept the truths when heard. They listen freely to all teachings which may be promulgated, but they do not discriminate and make their intellectual conceptions a part of their basis for daily living. They do not allow the "word" to take "root" in their beings, and they therefore constitute a "stony ground," where "seed" withers away.

A third class of people have become so engrossed in their material pursuits and selfish desires that they do not permit a knowledge of spiritual truths to interfere with their sensual manner of existence. They live in their emotions and desires: eating, drinking, and making merry. Their homes and lands, their "getting and spending," their personal vanities, etc., occupy their time and thoughts. The "thorns," or lower nature, choke out the "seed" and prevent its growth.

Happily, there is still another type of human being, as referred to in the parable: those who "hear the word." These are the ones who listen to the voice of the Higher Self, the Christ within, and endeavor to live according to the spiritual truths given out to humanity as a pattern for progress by our Elder Brothers. Their daily lives are filled with thoughts and acts of love and service to others, in emulation of Christ Jesus, the Ideal for present humanity. Thus do they prepare themselves for the New Age nurturing the "seed" until it grows and flowers into a glorious, luminous fruitage: the Golden Wedding Garment, or soul body, the evidence of the Christ within.

