

# Make Church a Part of Your Life

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE



### "Listen"

By Preacher/Teacher Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Ministries

Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." (Luke 4:9) After being rejected by the religious leaders of His day, Christ employed a new form of teaching, through parables. It is an effective method of revealing truth to the spiritual and at the same time concealing it from those who desire to retain a hard heart to the things of God. A parable is a comparison of objects for the purpose of teaching a spiritual truth.

One such parable is found in Mark 4: 1-9. The Lord explains the meaning of that parable to His disciples in Mark 4: 14-20.

The Lord opens the parable with "Listen!" He wants His listeners to attend carefully to what is about to be said. "A farmer went out to sow his seed." The background of the parable is rural Palestine. While seed was being broadcast, the sower would deliberately sow the seed to the very edge of his field. Some would necessarily fall on part of the walking path that was along the edge of the field, in rocky places, among thorns, and on good soil. The idea is the more seed that was sown the larger the harvest would

be. Jesus later explained that the seed was the Word of God. While Christ went about teaching and preaching, He was sowing the seeds of God's Word. He taught in the Synagogue, along lake shores, on mountainsides, in the homes of sinners, in religious teachers' homes and to all who traveled with Him.

The Lord now sows the seeds of God's Word through obedient Christians who are

faithful to share His Word with family, friends, and co-workers and whomever will hear. All who claim Christ as Savior and Lord are to get the Word of God out to those in the world, whenever and however God makes the way for them to accomplish this. When you see Christians sharing God's Word everywhere, they are simply spreading the seeds of the gospel in obedience to the Lord's call upon their lives.

"As he [the farmer] was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up... Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them." Seed falling on the walkways is refused by the hard and well-trodden ground and is readily picked up by the birds. In like manner, the seed of God's Word falling upon a heart hardened and calloused by a life of sin and unbelief is quickly snatched away by Satan, urging the heart to not believe and be saved.

The seed that falls upon the hard ground and is snatched by the birds does not produce a harvest of grain. Nor does God's Word falling upon a hard heart produce eternal life in a person.

"Listen!" If you have no hunger for God's Word, if you have no desire to know more about Jesus or to know Him personally, then your heart is now a hard trodden-down pathway, and Satan is keeping the words of eternal life from you, keeping you from heaven's gates. Repent and seek Christ's teachings.

**Where is Your Faith?**

There's a tale of a fisherman who fell from his boat and implored God to save him. As he bobbed in the water he refused help from several bystanders because he was so sure God was going to save him. He shouted that he didn't need their help as he disappeared beneath the water. Upon entering Heaven he asked, "God, why did you not save me?!" God replied, "But I sent several angels to help you and you refused their help. Where was your faith?" God asked the fisherman a good question. Where is your faith? Do you know where to find it? Visit your house of worship and learn of His promises. He wants to help you live a more peaceful and joyous life.

**Weekly Scripture Reading**

Hebrews 8.1-13	Hebrews 9.1-22	Hebrews 9.23-10.18	Hebrews 10.19-39	Psalms 80	Hebrews 11.1-22	Hebrews 11.23-40
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Scriptures Selected by the American Bible Society

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### Sudoku Solution #3250-M

5	6	1	2	3	7	8	4	9
8	2	4	9	5	1	6	7	3
3	7	9	6	8	4	2	5	1
9	1	5	7	2	6	4	3	8
7	4	6	3	1	8	5	9	2
2	3	8	4	9	5	1	6	7
1	8	7	5	6	3	9	2	4
6	9	3	8	4	2	7	1	5
4	5	2	1	7	9	3	8	6

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"Sounds Familiar"

B	O	I	S	E		A	F	E	W		S	M	O	G			
A	P	R	I	L		R	I	T	A		C	O	M	A			
C	E	I	L	I	N	G	F	A	N		O	V	E	N			
O	R	S	O		C	U	E		D	A	R	I	N	G			
N	A	H			M	A	E		H	E	L	E	N				
					P	E	A		C	A	R	E		G	P	S	
L	O	F	A	T		M	A	Z	E		O	V	A	L			
E	R	R	S		P	O	S	E	D		M	A	L	E			
N	A	Y	S		A	B	E	L		D	I	N	E	D			
A	L	I			I	R	I	S		T	U	T					
					N	A	D	A	L		D	A	D		H	O	G
S	I	G	N	A	L		B	O	X		O	O	Z	E			
C	A	P	T		L	E	A	D	I	N	G	M	A	N			
A	G	A	S		E	G	G	O		A	L	E	R	T			
T	O	N	Y		L	O	S	S		P	E	R	K	S			