



## SAVED TO SERVE

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### THE CONDITION OF GOD'S REMNANT CHURCH THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER, PART 1

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will identify the characteristics of individuals in God's remnant church and examine ourselves through the lenses of the parable of the sower.

"The church is not now the separate and peculiar people she was when the fires of persecution were kindled against her. How is the gold become dim! how is the most fine gold changed! **I saw that if the church had always retained her peculiar, holy character, the power of the Holy Spirit which was imparted to the disciples would still be with her. The sick would be healed, devils would be rebuked and cast out, and she would be mighty and a terror to her enemies.**" {EW 227.1}

2. What is Christ's instruction to us in 2 Corinthians 13:5, and why does He instruct us to do so? Psalm 139:23, 24; Jeremiah 17:9

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How does God view His professed people? Revelation 3:14, 17 Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **Note:** Christ's solution to help the blind church was to teach them using parables. Let us now look at the parable of the sower specifically, the wayside hearers. Read Matthew 13:15-17. It gives us the context behind Christ sharing the parable of the sower.

5. **Note:** Read now Matthew 13:3, 4, 19. When we think of the wayside, we imagine a main road with a shoulder just off to the side of it. The Bible describes those who are on the path toward heaven as being on the narrow way (main road) and those who are headed to perdition are on the broad way. For the application, those who are on the wayside would be those who are caught in between the narrow way and the broad way - they are lukewarm and desire both paths. Nevertheless, while they remain by the wayside, they are in a lost condition.

6. Read the first part of Matthew 13:19 again. It says that the wayside hearers hear "the word of the kingdom." What is this word? Matthew 24:14; Revelation 14:6-12

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

7. The second phrase of Matthew 13:19 says that they understand it (the Word) not. Why do they not understand the Word?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

**"The seed sown by the wayside represents the word of God as it falls upon the heart of an inattentive hearer. Like the hard-beaten path, trodden down by the feet of men and beasts, is the heart that becomes a highway for the world's traffic, its pleasures and sins. Absorbed in selfish aims and sinful indulgences, the soul is "hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Hebrews 3:13. The spiritual faculties are paralyzed. Men hear the word, but understand it not. They do not discern that it applies to themselves. They do not realize their need or their danger. They do not perceive the love of Christ, and they pass by the message of His grace as something that does not concern them."** {COL 44.2}

8. What are some specific doctrines which many people do not understand? (Reflect on your own experience)

a) **Fear God** - \_\_\_\_\_

b) **Seventh-Day Sabbath Observance** - \_\_\_\_\_

c) **Second Coming** - \_\_\_\_\_

d) **Who comprises Babylon?** - \_\_\_\_\_

e) **What is the Mark of the Beast?** - \_\_\_\_\_

f) **Texts that show us we are living in a time of judgment** - \_\_\_\_\_

(Other doctrines that we must know include: not wearing jewelry, giving up flesh foods, dress reform, music reform, etc).

“...There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is “present truth” that the flock needs now. I have seen the danger of the messengers running off from the important points of present truth, to dwell upon subjects that are not calculated to unite the flock and sanctify the soul. Satan will here take every possible advantage to injure the cause.” {EW 63.1}

“But such subjects as the sanctuary, in connection with the 2300 days, the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus, are perfectly calculated to explain the past Advent movement and show what our present position is, establish the faith of the doubting, and give certainty to the glorious future. These, I have frequently seen, were the principal subjects on which the messengers should dwell.” {EW 63.2}

9. What is another reason why many youth, who are wayside hearers, do not understand the Word? Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:6, 7

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

10. When wayside hearers hear the Word, how do they respond to the minister presenting the truth? Exodus 32:1, 2

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

“...The speaker's choice of language or his manner may not please the hearers, and they dwell upon these defects. Thus the truth they need, and which God has graciously sent them, makes no lasting impression.” {COL 44.3}

“These,” said Aaron without hesitation or shame, “be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.” Aaron influenced the children of Israel to go to greater lengths in idolatry than had entered their minds. They were no longer troubled lest the burning glory like flaming fire upon the mount had consumed their leader. They thought they had a general who just suited them, and they were ready to do anything that he suggested. They sacrificed to their golden god; they offered peace offerings, and gave themselves up to pleasure, rioting, and drunkenness. They were then decided in their own minds that it was not because they were wrong that they had so much trouble in the wilderness; but the difficulty, after all, was with their leader. He was not the right kind of man. He was too unyielding and kept their sins continually before them, warning, reproving, and threatening them with God's displeasure. A new order of things had come, and they were pleased with Aaron and pleased with themselves. They thought: If Moses had only been as amiable and mild as Aaron, what peace and harmony would have prevailed in the camp of Israel! They cared not now whether Moses ever came down from the mount or not.” {3T 300.2}

11. Is there anything wrong with the seed that is sown by the wayside? Luke 8:11; Hebrews 4:12

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

12. How can you identify a wayside hearer? What do they do, and what phrases might they say? **Note: Wayside hearers don't see their need.**

**The standards are too stringent...**  
**The church needs to change with the times...**  
**I just want to enjoy my youth right now and give my life to God later...**

13. What made you want to learn and live out the principles of truth for yourself? Write down your experience.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. What is God's desire for the wayside hearers and the Laodicean church? Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

“The only hope for the Laodiceans is a clear view of their standing before God, a knowledge of the nature of their disease. They are neither cold nor hot; they occupy a neutral position, and at the same time flatter themselves that they are in need of nothing. The True Witness hates this lukewarmness. He loathes the indifference of this class of persons. Said He: “I would thou wert cold or hot.” Like lukewarm water, they are nauseous to His taste. They are neither unconcerned nor selfishly stubborn. They do not engage thoroughly and heartily in the work of God, identifying themselves with its interests; but they hold aloof and are ready to leave their posts when their worldly personal interests demand it. The internal work of grace is wanting in their hearts; of such it is said: “Thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.” {4T 87.2}

15. **Note:** There are several ways that a person can be brought to see their need. Some people must go through fiery trials and hit rock bottom like the prodigal son. Others may come to see their need of a Savior after hearing about the love of Jesus for

sinner's blended with the personal experiences of others. The prayers of people on the sinner's behalf may cause them to eventually surrender to Christ. Nevertheless, once the sinner sees his need, he must allow the seed to take root.

16. One issue with the wayside hearers is that they lack understanding of the Word. Once the sinner sees his need, what must he do to allow it to take root? Psalm 119:130

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

17. What must we pray to get victory over the wayside condition? Psalm 119:34; James 1:5

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

18. **Note:** In our next lesson, we will dive deeper into the experience of the wayside hearers and pinpoint who and what are the birds that pluck up the seed from their hearts.