



SAVED TO SERVE

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THE CONDITION OF GOD'S REMNANT CHURCH THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER, PART 2

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will continue looking at the wayside hearers and identify who the birds are which pluck up the seed from their hearts.

2. Read Matthew 13:19. Why do the wayside hearers not retain the seed of truth in their hearts?

Answer: _____

3. Who primarily is the wicked one? Mark 4:15 Answer: _____

4. Why does Satan pluck up the seed from their hearts? Luke 8:12

Answer: _____

5. **Note:** To better illustrate the wayside hearers, we have given them the alias, The Persuadables. This is because they hear the Word of God but are immediately swayed by other people not to believe the truth. This is why many young people will not be saved in these last days - because they listened to the voice of men and women who were influenced by Satan. Let us now look at a few examples in scripture of individuals who were swayed by the wicked one or agents of the wicked one.

6. Eve became a wayside hearer after listening to Satan. What did Satan insinuate to Eve as he twisted God's words? Genesis 3:1-4

Answer: _____

7. What kind of hearer was Pilate, and who were the human birds that plucked up his seed? John 18:38-40; 19:6

Answer: _____

8. The chief priests who influenced Pilate to crucify Jesus would represent corrupt leaders in churches today who are plucking up the seed of truth from the hearts of their congregations. Instead of God's faithful ministers, who will wayside hearers choose to listen to? 2 Timothy 4:3, 4; Matthew 15:14

Answer: _____

9. What are some experiences where you have seen the Word of truth being plucked up from your heart or that of others by corrupt church leaders?

10. Read Proverbs 13:20. Who else are human birds that pluck up the seed of truth from our hearts? Psalm 28:3; Proverbs 1:10

Answer: _____

11. Reflect on some experiences when you have been pressured by your peers (in the world and in the church) to reject truth or fall into sin.

12. What is another bird that plucks up the seed of truth? Matthew 23:15 Answer: _____

“He [LUTHER] wrote thus of the universities: “I am much afraid that the universities will prove to be the great gates of hell, unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, and engraving them in the hearts of youth. I advise no one to place his child where the Scriptures do not reign paramount. Every institution in which men are not unceasingly occupied with the word of God must become corrupt.”—Ibid., b. 6, ch. 3. (GC 140.5)

“In His teaching our Savior did not encourage any to attend the rabbinical schools of His day, for the reason that their minds would be corrupted with the continually repeated, “They say,” or, “It hath been said.” The Lord can do more with minds that have no connection with schools where infidel authors are perused. These lesson books He reaches out His hand to remove, and in their stead places the Old and New Testament Scriptures. Those who will search the Scriptures for themselves, because it is the Word of God, who are willing to dig for the truth as for hidden treasures, will receive for their prize that wisdom which cometh from God. If they will not rely upon their own smartness, not trust in their own inventions and fruitful minds, if they will give the working of the mind into the Lord's hands, and yoke up with

Jesus Christ, they will not take steps where Jesus does not lead the way.” (SpM 52.2)

13. How have you seen schools and universities (SDA or Secular) be agents of Satan to pluck up the seed of truth? Reflect on your experiences.
14. Who else are human birds that Satan uses as his agents? John 9:17-23; Luke 8:19-21

Answer: _____

“His brothers often brought forward the philosophy of the Pharisees, which was threadbare and hoary with age, and presumed to think that they could teach Him who understood all truth, and comprehended all mysteries. They freely condemned that which they could not understand. Their reproaches probed Him to the quick, and His soul was wearied and distressed. They avowed faith in God, and thought they were vindicating God, when God was with them in the flesh, and they knew Him not.” (DA 326.3)

“These things made His path a thorny one to travel. So pained was Christ by the misapprehension in His own home that it was a relief to Him to go where it did not exist...” (DA 326.4)

“Satan has many helpers. Many who profess to be Christians are aiding the tempter to catch away the seeds of truth from other hearts. Many who listen to the preaching of the word of God make it the subject of criticism at home... Severe judgment is pronounced, gossip or slander repeated, and this in the hearing of the unconverted. Often these things are spoken by parents in the hearing of their own children. Thus are destroyed respect for God's messengers, and reverence for their message. And many are taught to regard lightly God's word itself.” (COL 45.1)

“Thus in the homes of professed Christians many youth are educated to be infidels. And the parents question why their children are so little interested in the gospel, and so ready to doubt the truth of the Bible. They wonder that it is so difficult to reach them with moral and religious influences. They do not see that their own example has hardened the hearts of their children. The good seed finds no place to take root, and Satan catches it away.” (COL 46.1)

15. **Note:** Let us now meditate on the hope outlined in scripture for the wayside hearers so that they can be on the good ground and bear fruit.
16. Briefly compare the account of Pilate and Jesus in John 18:33-38 with Eve & the serpent in Genesis 3:1-4. Pilate asked questions to learn truth, Satan asked questions to cause doubt. While we should ask questions about our faith with an open heart to learn the truth, what must we do simultaneously? 2 Timothy 2:15; Acts 17:11 & See quotation

Answer: _____

“I have been shown that the greatest reason why the people of God are now found in this state of spiritual blindness is that they will not receive correction. Many have despised the reproofs and warnings given them. The True Witness condemns the lukewarm condition of the people of God, which gives Satan great power over them in this waiting, watching time. The selfish, the proud, and the lovers of sin are ever assailed with doubts. Satan has ability to suggest doubts and to devise objections to the pointed testimony that God sends, and many think it a virtue, a mark of intelligence in them, to be unbelieving and to question and quibble. Those who desire to doubt will have plenty of room. God does not propose to remove all occasion for unbelief. He gives evidence, which must be carefully investigated with a humble mind and a teachable spirit, and all should decide from the weight of evidence.” (3T 255.1)

17. After Pilate asked Jesus what is truth, what did Pilate fail to do? What must wayside hearers learn to do? John 18:38; Psalm 40:1; Luke 24:29; John 15:4

Answer: _____

18. The last hope for wayside hearers is that they need new, godly friends and associates. Pilate's wife begged him not to harm Jesus (Matthew 27:19, 20), but he listened to the chief priests and rulers instead. What did they cause him to do against his own conscience? John 18:38; 19:1, 6

Answer: _____

19. If we choose not to accept the remedies for the wayside hearers, what sin will we ultimately commit? John 19:9; Ephesians 4:30

Answer: _____

“That with which the parable of the sower chiefly deals is the effect produced on the growth of the seed by the soil into which it is cast. By this parable Christ was virtually saying to His hearers, It is not safe for you to stand as critics of My work, or to indulge disappointment because it does not meet your ideas. The question of greatest importance to you is, How do you treat My message? Upon your reception or rejection of it your eternal destiny depends.” (COL 43.2)