

I. Receiving the Word

1. Isaiah 55:10-13

55:10 For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

55:11 so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

55:12 For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

55:13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

2. Psalm 65:9-13

65:9 You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.

65:10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

65:11 You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

65:12 The pastures of the wilderness overflow, the hills gird themselves with joy,

65:13 the meadows clothe themselves with flocks, the valleys deck themselves with grain, they shout and sing together for joy.

3. Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

13:2 Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.

13:3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow.

13:4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up.

13:5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil.

13:6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

13:7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

13:8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

13:9 Let anyone with ears listen!"

13:18 "Hear then the parable of the sower.

13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

13:20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

13:21 yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

13:22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

13:23 But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

B. 2 Corinthians 2:14-17

¹⁴Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place. ¹⁵For we are to God the fragrance of Christ among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing ¹⁶To the one we are the aroma of death leading to death, and to the other the aroma of life leading to life. And who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.

C. 1 Corinthians 1:18

¹⁸For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

II. Introduction

A. God's word figured as

1. Rain (Is. 55:10-11)
2. Seed (Matt. 13:1-9)

B. Like these blessings from God, It is necessary for man to live "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God"

1. It is necessary for God to send it
2. It is necessary for man to receive it.
 - a) Over and over in the explanation of the parable, Jesus uses the phrase "received the word"
 - b) Since God has surely sent His word, it is our duty to receive it in the best possible way.

III. Purposes of God's word (Is. 55:10-13)

A. It has a purpose – v. 11

B. To be received – v. 10

C. To cause change

D. Does the fact that some do not receive it, or it does not change them, mean that the word of God has not had its intended effect?

E. To test and reveal the hearts of men (1 Cor. 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17)

IV. Requirements for Receiving (Matthew 13:18-23)

A. Take it in (Is. 55:6; Mt. 13:13-16)

1. Listen with understanding
2. Give attention/Avoid distraction
3. Apply it to our senses

B. Allow it to penetrate deeply (Is. 55:8-9; James 1:21)

1. Requires dwelling on it
2. Opening up all areas of our life to its effects
3. Allowing it to discern the thoughts and intents of our heart (Heb 4:12)
4. Are your eyes and ears terrified?

C. Prefer it, choose it (Is. 55:7; Matt. 13:18ff; James 1:22-26)

1. Remove all obstacles to the word (Removing rocks from the rocky soil, removing thorns from the thorny soil)
2. Weed our garden/Repent

V. Results of Receiving

A. Fruitfulness Mt. 13:23

B. Personal change Is. 55:13

C. Rich abundance Ps. 65:9-13

VI. Conclusion

A. Have you received God's word? In the best way?

1. Take it in
2. Allow it to penetrate deeply
3. Prefer it, choose it

B. Is it having the effect God intended?

1. Making us fruitful
2. Producing personal change