

# The Right and Left Hand of God

{3} [She] As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste. {4} He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love. {5} Sustain me with raisins; refresh me with apples, for I am sick with love. {6} His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me! [Song of Songs 2:3-6 ESV]

Let us repent and  
return to the Lord  
with a whole heart.

# The Four Hearts

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# Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

*{1} Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. {2} And he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: {3} "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. {4} And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.*

*{5} Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. {6} And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. {7} Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. {8} And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." {9} And he said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear." [Mark 4:1-9 ESV]*

# Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed

- We usually apply portions of this parable to unbelievers, but Jesus instructs us to apply it to ourselves.
- Bearing fruit is never a problem with the seed but with the soil it falls upon.
- Good soil has been “broken up” - what has been hidden underneath has now been exposed and turned up.

{44} And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him." [Matthew 21:44 ESV]

# Four Types of Hearts

1. Hard heart
  - a. Not much soil; bird steals the seed
2. Hollow (shallow) heart
  - a. No root or depth
3. Half-heart
  - a. concerns of the world choke out the seed
4. Whole heart
  - a. good soil

# The Hard Heart

- *{15} And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. [Mark 4:15 ESV]*
- With this first soil, we see the activity of satan.
- How does satan steal seed? By the “birds of the air”.
  - “Birds of the air” speaks of satan manipulating and confusing what we hear.

# The Hard Heart

- “...is there balm in Gilead?...Quoth the Raven, ‘Nevermore.’”  
(Edgar Allan Poe, *The Raven*)
  - Jeremiah 8:22
- satan attempts to steal the word of God by saying “nevermore” or “Did God say?”
- The seed is on top of the soil - it has not attached.

# The Hollow Heart

- *{16} And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy. {17} And they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.*  
[Mark 4:16-17 ESV]
- This pertains to the activity of the flesh.

# The Hollow Heart

- There is no perseverance; no ability to withstand trial and testing.
- God asks us to do what only He can do.
- The word(s) God gives you over your life will be tested.
  - Rhema and logos
  - Abraham
- Testing produces depth - depth produces strength
- Oaks root systems get stronger after every storm.

# Perseverance

- *{15} "But the [seed] in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with **perseverance**. [Luke 8:15 NASB]*
- *{3} And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about **perseverance**; {4} and **perseverance**, proven character; and proven character, hope; [Romans 5:3-4 NASB]*

# Perseverance

- *{11} But flee from these things, you man of God, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, **perseverance** [and] gentleness. [1 Timothy 6:11 NASB]*
- *{12} The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all **perseverance**, by signs and wonders and miracles. [2 Corinthians 12:12 NASB]*

# The Half Heart

- *{18} "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, {19} but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.  
[Mark 4:18-19 NASB]*
- This pertains to the activity of the world

# The Half-Heart

- By all appearances, this wheat stalk looks healthy and good but it produces no grain.
- Other ways to describe this:
  - Riding the fence
  - Lukewarm
  - Compromised
- When you're in a war, you can't be double-minded.

# The Half-Heart

- Jesus demonstrated His commitment to us on the cross.
- Are there areas in our life that are leaving Jesus “exposed”? Are we giving Jesus our lives?
  - Hypocrisy and self-righteousness are enemies of the cross.
- *{14}...and their fruit does not mature. [Luke 8:14 ESV]*
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## The Whole Heart

- *{20} But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." [Mark 4:20 ESV]*
- *{15} As for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patience. [Luke 8:15 ESV]*

# The Whole Heart

- The whole heart received the word of the Lord and plants it into their life.
- They build their life around the truth.
- They approach God with an honest heart.
- They are humble before men.
- They have truly surrendered all - everything is on the table.

{1} "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, {2} and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' {3} you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. {4} You shall walk after the LORD your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him. [Deuteronomy 13:1-4 ESV]