



## Unit Devotional Thoughts

### Lesson 1: Classification

Topic: Seeds of Righteousness

Scripture:

“Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

Matthew 13: 18-23 (NKJV)

Thought:

Jesus tells a parable of how members of the human race can be classified into groups based on their knowledge, acceptance, and endurance in the word of God. As the word of God is spread across the nations, we can find people who will fall into one of four categories.

#### Category One: The Way Side

As the sower sowed his seeds, some fell by the way side and birds came to devour them. These seeds had no chance of survival from the time they hit bad ground. Such persons are those whose hearts and minds are closed to the word of God. They give it no chance to transform their lives. They do not allow faith to germinate in their lives but allow the Devil to steal the promises of God.

#### Category Two: The Stony Place

As the sower sowed his seeds, some fell on stony ground. Some dirt was present to permit the seeds to germinate, but not enough to sustain life. As the heat of the day progressed, the sun scorched and killed what had grown. Such persons are those who hear the word of God and receive it. However, they lack faith and turn away from what they have heard once trials arise.

#### Category Three: The Thorny Place

As the sower sowed his seeds, some fell among thorns. As the seeds grew, the thorns overpowered them and choked the life out of them. Such persons are those who accept the word of God in their lives but refuse to make it their first priority. They care more for the riches and influences of the world than they do for the things of God. In time, their own selfish ambitions lead to spiritual suffocation.





#### Category Four: The Good Ground

As the sower sowed his seeds, some fell on good ground. The seeds germinated, grew, and produced much fruit. Such persons are those who hear the word, accept the word, and allow the Lord to build in them hearts full of faith. Not only are their spiritual lives strong, but they produce fruit and lead others to the Kingdom of Heaven.

God is the sower; you are the seed! How are you classified?



## Lesson 2: Taxa

Topic: Spiritual Gifts

Scripture:

“And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”

1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV)

Thought:

The Christian church is similar to the biosphere in terms of diversity. One of the most interesting things about our planet is its biodiversity. It would be a very bland world if humanity was the only species in existence. This is why God created such diversity of life on planet Earth. Seeing how the various species interact and depend on each other is a hint to the same interaction and dependency in the church.

What if everyone was a pastor? How would the church operate or successfully complete its mission? The apostle Paul compared the church to the body. He explained that one member of the body is no more important than another. Rather, all depend on each other and work together to accomplish its purpose.

The church has different taxa, or levels, of service based on the spiritual gifts God has bestowed upon His people. As we develop our relationship with Christ, our spiritual gifts are also developed.



### Lesson 3: Determining Relationship

Topic: By Their Fruits

Scripture:

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.”  
Galatians 5:22, 23 (NKJV)

Thought:

In theme of the great controversy between good and evil, our current existence revolves around determining relationship and loyalty. To whom will we pledge our allegiance; to Christ or to Satan? Surely we all would profess our allegiance to Christ.

Though we may profess with our mouth, Christ warns that we must take heed lest we be found lacking on the Day of Judgment. Christ warns, in Matthew 7:20, that by their fruits you shall know them. By our fruits we can know to whom our allegiance belongs.

Those who have pledged their loyalty to Christ by forming an eternal relationship with Him are those who possess the fruits of the spirit. As they learn of Christ and continue to form a relationship with Him, they begin to reflect His character. As Christ's, their characters become filled with love, joy, peace, etc.

Those who have not pledged their hearts to Christ are forming, perhaps unknowingly, a relationship with the enemy of God. Their characters reflect the works of the flesh. Galatians 5:19-21 outlines the works of the flesh and states that those whose characters are marked by the flesh cannot enter the Kingdom of God!

With whom are you building your relationship?



## Lesson 4: Six Kingdoms

Topic: The Kingdom of Heaven

### Scriptures:

“But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly *country*. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”

Hebrews 11:16 (NKJV)

“To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”

1Peter 1:4 (NKJV)

“But as it is written: eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)

### Thought:

History is filled with innumerable kingdoms that have risen and fallen. In science, all living things are placed in kingdoms to identify similar qualities shared. Even the Bible speaks of a kingdom! What is the special idea or concept behind kingdoms? What is it that holds them together?

A kingdom is made up of a group of people with a common bond. Some kingdoms are for the good of the people, while others are controlled by self-centered leaders. The strongest kingdoms are usually those with strong leaders whose purpose and goals are to meet the needs of their subjects. In such kingdoms, the leaders build the kingdom by building up the lives and worth of the inhabitants.

God has prepared for us such a kingdom. Unlike any earthly kingdom, the Kingdom of Heaven is incorruptible. Its glory and splendor shall never be defiled nor fade. The greatest imagination of man could not fathom what God has prepared for us. The Bible says that it is our inheritance. Christ died that we may have the keys to the Kingdom.

The greatest part of this kingdom is that God is our leader. God will not be ashamed of us, His beloved children. Our eternal days shall be filled with His presence, His companionship, and His love. Allow Him to be the King of your heart, and on the glorious day of His appearing He shall welcome us home.