

## The Treasure in an Earthen Vessel



The treasure  
hidden in the field

The revelation  
of the treasure

The earthen vessel:  
The field

**The man had to buy the field in order to bring the treasure into his possession. Likewise, we must give up our own concepts and accept the earthen vessel to gain the treasure—Christ.**

into the enemy's hands by opposing the message that God sends. Satan uses them as sharp instruments to oppose the progress of truth." *The S.D.A. Bible Commentary* 5:1089.5.

After the ascension of Christ the disciples bitterly accused themselves of not having really appreciated the treasure in the field during their three and a half years with Jesus. Today we too need to ask ourselves, Do we appreciate Him as we should?

### The Parable of the Sower

The question of our appreciation of the treasure is also dealt with in the parable of the sower.

"Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immedi-

ately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" *Matthew* 13:3–9.

In this parable the treasure is the seed—the preaching of the truth. The sower sows the seed. In other words, the sower is the messenger, the vessel that is used to bring the seed to the listeners. But another vessel is mentioned here as well—the people who hear the truth. This parable shows in a convincing way what the appreciation of the treasure means: to give up everything so that we can be useful vessels in which the treasure of truth can grow.

"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." *Matthew* 13:19.

If we do not understand a message we should not blame the messenger, but ask ourselves whether the cause might be that our own hearts are not ready for the treasure. The disciples did not understand the truth that Jesus preached because they had a hard-trodden path of wrong concepts. But instead of allowing the birds to peck the seeds away, they came to Jesus because they wanted to understand. "Then His disciples asked Him, saying, 'What does this parable mean?'" *Luke* 8:9. In other words, the disciples appreciated the treasure so much that they were willing for the vessel—their own understanding—to be worked upon.

Unfortunately, very few people react in such a way. Many react very superficially and immediately reject what they in reality do not understand, because it does not fit into their preconceived ideas. They prefer to criticize the messenger rather than their own understanding, and in this way everything that the Holy Spirit brings to them is pecked away.

"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." *Matthew* 13:20, 21.

The stony ground is a vessel that does not keep the seed of truth for long. If we depend on our own strength instead of the grace gained through communion with the Saviour, we will not retain the impression that the truth made for long. The stones are self—our own works.