


"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* 13:23.

"The good-ground hearer receives the word 'not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.' 1 Thess. 2:13. Only he who receives the Scriptures as the voice of God speaking to himself is a true learner. He trembles at the word; for to him it is a living reality. He opens his understanding and his heart to receive it. Such hearers were Cornelius and his friends, who said to the apostle Peter, 'Now therefore are we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God.' Acts 10:33." *Christ's Object Lessons*, 59.2.³

The parable of the sower plainly shows that we bear a decisive responsibility in the care of our own vessels.

The Treasure in an Earthen Vessel .



**The treasure:
The seed of truth**

A living revelation

**The earthen vessel:
Humanity**

We must do all we can so that our own earthen vessels are ready for the treasure of truth. Only when the treasure is within us can it be revealed in our lives.

³ For further study we recommend the second chapter of *Christ's Object Lessons*, "The Sower Went Forth to Sow."

Why Should We Appreciate the Vessel?

We also need to appreciate the vessel, no matter what it may be, that brings us the truth because it brings us the treasure. Christ chooses simple vessels, those that are usually despised by people. What lesson do we need to learn from this?

The Lord desires our attention to be directed to the treasure, and not to the vessel. It is not the vessel that deserves to be honored but the treasure that is contained within it. Any homage given to the vessel would be a distraction from the treasure.

"But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence." *1 Corinthians* 1:27-29.

"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us." *2 Corinthians* 4:7.

Every person used by God as a vessel in which He places His treasure should give the honor to God, and not take it to themselves. But whoever honors the treasure aright will also appreciate the vessel which is used to communicate the treasure. This means that we will love those whom the Lord gives us to pass on the message. And for those who really appreciate the message this will be quite natural.

Mary, the sister of Lazarus, serves as a fitting example of those who truly appreciate the treasure. "And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word." *Luke* 10:39.

To "sit at the feet of Jesus" means to be still and to listen to Him. But it also means that we humble ourselves, give up our own ways, and accept His rebukes. It means to love Jesus.

The Galatians similarly expressed their appreciation for the treasure of divine revelation, as Paul writes: "And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus." *Galatians* 4:14.

It should be the endeavor of every believer to accept the message with the same zeal. That is gospel order.

Andreas Dura

