

## Introduction

This week and we have a look at Revelation we want to look at the fivefold ministry gifting and the parable of the sower.

## Scripture

- **Mark 4:6 (NIV, ©2011)**

<sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Here, Jesus is talking about the seed that falls in rocky places, how it springs up quickly because the soil is shallow. But He goes on to say, in verse 6, that the plants get scorched because there is no root.

It is easy to receive a truth, but a truth needs to become established in our hearts before we can speak it out.

It is no good having a hard heart. What Jesus is really talking about is the heart being shallow, and nothing can be truly deposited in us.

The heart that Jesus is talking about here, is a heart that does not take correction, has preconceived ideas of how things should happen. It is not open to change. This heart does not spend time allowing God to deal with it.

That is why we need things to be established in our heart and working for us as a truth so it brings life to us, and the fruit if that established truth comes forth so that it touches others.

That is why Jesus says that it is shallow. There is no depth. It finds it hard to receive revelation. That is why we need to keep our heart open.

No doubt we all think we are right, but we can all learn so much from this parable of the sower.

Jesus wants us to live on a balanced diet, so we do not become locked in to just one way. That we don't become locked into "my way, or the highway"!

That is why Jesus gave the Church the Ephesians 4 giftings. To prepare the body for the works of service.

## Scripture

- **Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV, ©2011)**

<sup>11</sup> So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, <sup>12</sup> to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

- **Ephesians 4:11-12 (Amp)**

<sup>11</sup>And His gifts were [varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us] some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, travelling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers.

<sup>12</sup>His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), [that they should do] the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church),

So much has been said about the Ephesians 4 giftings, but we really never see them operating. All we ever see or hear about are Pastors, Evangelists and sometimes Prophets, and they seem to be doing the work of the Ministry.

But Jesus gave Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers and Evangelists.

These giftings were given to the Body of Christ not just to do Ministry, but where to equip people for the work of service, which would result in the body being built up.

If we look in verse 12 of the Amplified version we see here Jesus says His intention was:

***INTENTION:* A course of action that one intends to follow. An aim that guides action; an objective.**

Jesus' whole purpose and intention of the five fold Ministry gifting was for perfecting and equipping.

1) Perfecting:

***PERFECTING:* (n.) A quality, endowment, or acquirement completely excellent; an ideal faultlessness; especially, the divine attribute of complete excellence.**

***(n.) The quality or state of being perfect or complete, so that nothing requisite is wanting; entire development; consummate culture, skill, or moral excellence; the highest attainable state or degree of excellence; maturity;***

2) Full Equipping of the Saints:

***EQUIPPING:* a. To supply with necessities such as tools or provisions.  
b. To furnish with the qualities necessary for performance:**

3) The Body should do the work

4) Building up Christ's Body

Each person who has an Ephesians 4 gifting on their life should be equipping people and releasing people and not controlling them or manipulating them but bringing them into a place of freedom

So for us to have a balanced diet and to be fully equipped we need to get out of this whole concept of Ministers doing all the work and the body being released into what it was meant to do. Otherwise we just become a little pastoral group of people all just going to a meeting to hear another message and watching the Pastor and a few people do the Ministry.

This was not the way Jesus meant it to be. He wants us to all grow up and do the works of service, so that we all become effective in the Kingdom of God.

### Scripture

- **Ephesians 4:12 (NIV, ©2011)**

<sup>12</sup> to prepare His people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up

Each person needs to have a:

### **Purpose:**

What do you think your purpose is?

### **Reason:**

*A declaration made to explain or justify action, decision, or conviction.*

*An underlying fact or cause that provides logical sense for a premise or occurrence.*

- **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV 2011)**

<sup>16</sup> All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> so that the servant of God<sup>[a]</sup> may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

What do you think your reason is?

### **Effective:**

*Having the power to produce an effect or effects; producing a decided or decisive effect; efficient; serviceable; operative; as, an effective force, remedy, speech;*

How can you become more effective?

### **Passionate:**

How can you become more passionate?

### **Active:**

In what areas do you need to become more active?

### **Risk takers (Faith people):**

We need to get out of our comfort zone.

### **Evangelise:**

We need a heart for the lost.

So that the body of Christ is functioning properly and not remaining shallow but is being built up, encouraged and released into the work of the Kingdom.

Next week we will be looking at Ephesians 4:13-16.

