



I. THE SACRED SOWER (MATTHEW 13:31, 37)

Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:"

II. THE SMALL SEED (MATTHEW 13:31-32)

A. THE SMALLNESS OF THE SEED

The Gospel is very small in its simplicity. It's not so high and lofty that few can get up to it; it's so small that few will get down to it.

B. THE STRENGTH OF THE SEED

Jesus said that faith like a grain of mustard seed could move mountains. A mustard seed is fiery; it's pungent.

C. THE SECRET OF THE SEED: IT HAS LIFE

III. A SIGNIFICANT SHRUB (MATTHEW 13:32)

This seed begins to grow into an herb, which is a bush that does not have a woody stem, but rather a pulpy stem. This stem is just enough to support leaves and flowers and seeds. It's not a great lofty thing like a tree.

This is what the Gospel is supposed to be. It may not appear to be much, but it is a shrub that is able to reproduce and bear whatever flower and seed it is given.

IV. A STRANGE SHADE TREE (MATTHEW 13:3-4, 19, 32)

What our Lord is talking about is something monstrous; something that is unnatural.

Genesis 1:11-12, "11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good."

Daniel 4:20-22, "20 The tree that thou sawest, which grew, and was strong, whose height reached unto the heaven, and the sight thereof to all the earth; 21 Whose leaves were fair, and the fruit thereof much, and in it was meat for all; under which the beasts of the field dwelt, and upon whose branches the fowls of the heaven had their habitation: 22 It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth."

Nebuchadnezzar is a type of Antichrist. This monstrous tree is a picture of the final stages of apostate Christianity in the last days.

Revelation 18:2, "And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird."

- **DIRTY BIRDS MAY USE THE BIBLE**

II Peter 3:16, "As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

The word "wrest" is from the Greek word *streblōō* (στρεβλωω) meaning to pervert.

- **DIRTY BIRDS MAY PERFORM MIRACLES (MATTHEW 24:24)**

- **DIRTY BIRDS MAY APPEAR TO DO GOOD WORKS (MATTHEW 7:22-23)**

- A. **THE SOURCE TEST** Ask: "What is the basis of your teaching?"

Revelation 22:18-19, "18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

- B. **THE SAVIOR TEST**

Ask: "Do you believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the virgin-born Son of God, co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father?" If yes, ask, "Do you worship Him?"

II John 1:9-10, "9 Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. 10 If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed:"

- C. **THE SUBJECT TEST** Ask: "Is the primary purpose of your teaching and ministry the Gospel of Jesus Christ?"

Galatians 1:8-9, "8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."

- D. **THE SALVATION TEST** "Are you depending on any achievement of your own to merit Heaven or are you trusting fully in the grace of Jesus Christ?"

Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

- E. **THE SANCTIFICATION TEST**

Ask: "Do you preach, teach and live in a standard of Biblical holiness?"

Titus 2:11-12, "11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;"