

Making the Big Plunge

Mt. 13:1-9, 18-23

Aim: The aim of this sermon is to help people understand that as hearers of the Word of God we fall into four basic categories either consciously or subconsciously. There is only one of the four categories that actually produces fruit thus glorifying God which should compel us to move in the direction of that category in order to glorify God.

Four Choices of Faith

- As hearers of God's Word we have four basic choices in how we can respond to God's Word out of and through our faith in Him. Consequently our response shows the level of involvement in the Word of God itself.

Choice #1 – The Shut Mind (v. 4, 19)

- **1 John 5:19-20** – We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. We know also that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true. And we are in him who is true—even in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.
- This main point will focus our attention on the results of hearing the Word of God and choosing to shut our heart and mind to its transforming power. There are several things that compel us to shut our heart and mind to God's Word. (Pride, Prejudice, Fear of Truth, and Immoral Character)

Choice #2 – The Careless Mind (v. 5-6, 20-21)

- **1 John 2:19** – They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.
- This main point will focus our attention on the results of hearing the Word of God but never choosing to move beyond a mere emotional relationship with the Savior. “A sudden enthusiasm can always so quickly be a dying fire.”

Choice #3 – The Crowded Mind (v. 7, 22)

- **James 4:7-8** – Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
- This main point will focus our attention on the results of hearing the Word of God and choosing not to build ones faith on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ but rather allow the worries of this busy life crowd Jesus out of our lives. This entails a deep relationship with the Savior and being grounded in the Word of God.

Choice #4 – The Open Mind (v. 8, 23)

- **John 15:8** – This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.
- This main point will focus our attention on the results of hearing the Word of God and choosing to pursue a healthy relationship with Jesus Christ. This can be done through the study of the Word, prayer, and dedication of life through words and action.

Three Facts of Faith

- We observe three basic facts of our faith presented in this passage by the Savior.
- **1 Cor. 3:6-9** – I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor. ⁹ For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

Fact #1 – The Harvest is for Sure

- This fact illustrates that no matter what choice we make with regard to accepting or rejecting the application of the Word of God there will still be a harvest in which God will be the reaper.

Fact #2 – Germination Takes Time

- This main point illustrates that growing a seed takes time and lasting growth does not happen over night.

Fact #3 – God Makes the Seed Grow

- This main point illustrates that we are only responsible for planting and watering the seed, God alone makes it grow.

Memory Verse:

Jeremiah 29:11 – For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



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