

## EVERYTHING ELSE IS YOURS, GOD

**Matthew 13:1-9:** (NIV) *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.”*

Jesus used parables to explain **truth**:

Primary Point: Understanding, is determined by the **condition** of the heart

Secondary Point: The truly saved, go on to **prove** his or her salvation (fruit)

Not necessarily to others (pridefully), but to themselves & to God

***Don't just assume, that you're the good soil!***

Many churchgoers, are soil that **chokes** the seed: That **distracts** us from God

***Be thankful! God, is never distracted from us!***

Has your relationship with God **changed** the way you live?

Do you (do others) see **evidence** of God's kingdom in your life?

➤ **Marginal Christians think enough is enough**

**Philippians 3:10-11:** *I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection, and to participate in his sufferings; becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

Does Paul sound like he's willing to settle into his comfort zone?

Does **lukewarm** or **marginally** committed, describe your Faith?

The bible tells us to **test** ourselves

**Luke 21:3-4**: *Jesus saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. “Truly I tell you,” He said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on.”*

Christ taught that it's not about the size of the **gift**:

It's about the heart of the giver – the **sacrifice**!

➤ **Marginal Christians tend to choose what is popular, over what is right:**

They desire to **fit in**

**Luke 6:26**: *Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.*

**William Smith**: *“Son, if the only thing you ever hear about someone is good - RUN! Either that person has accomplished nothing of value in life, or he focuses more on his reputation, than on his character.”*

➤ **Marginal Christians don't really want to be saved from their sin:**

They desire, to be saved from the **penalty**, of their sin.

**Romans 6:2**: *We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?*

➤ **Marginal Christians admire people who ‘stand up’ for Christ:**

Yet they seldom **act**, themselves

**James 2:17**: *In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.*

➤ **Marginal Christians rarely share their faith** with neighbors or friends

They do not want to be **rejected** and, often: They fear being **labeled**

**Matthew 10:32-33:** *“Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. But whoever disowns me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.*

➤ **Marginal Christians measure their own morality, or ‘goodness:’**

By secular standards.

**Luke 18:11-12:** *The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evil doers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’*

➤ **Marginal Christians say they love Jesus:**

And, indeed, He is a part of their lives:

But they never turn over control of their lives to Him.

**Luke 9:61-62:** *Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”*

➤ **Marginal Christians love others:**

They tend to focus their love on those who first love them:

Face it, for most people, love is conditional

**Matthew 5:43-44:** *“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . .*

➤ **Marginal Christians do, whatever it takes, to keep from feeling too guilty:**

Their daily goal is to do the bare minimum necessary

Instead of marginal, Jesus desires us to be ‘all in!’

**God is always nearer than even our most secret thoughts**

That's why Christians never really 'find' God - They finally see Him

So, what does Jesus want, from you?

The answer is clear: He wants **EVERYTHING!**