



Dreaming Without Depth

July 5, 2020

Personal Introduction:

1. I miss you!
2. I am fighting off **separation anxiety**
3. I am fighting to establish a new **model** (I will talk more about this later)
4. I am fighting the temptation to **pretend** I can go back and live like before
5. I am becoming more aware of how **shallow** we can become, both religiously and secularly

Main Text: Matthew 13:18–23; NKJV

Series Review: Four Responses That Impact a Dream

1. The Wayside Response: This is about a lack of understanding

- 18 “Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

2. The Stony Places Response: This is about not having roots

- 20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has **no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Note: William Barclay: Commentary on Matthew

- “There are the hearers with minds like the shallow ground. These are people who fail to think things out and think them through.”
- These people have sudden enthusiasm that quickly becomes a dying fire.

3. The Thorny Places Response: This is about daily responsibilities and riches

- 22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the **cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches** choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

4. The Good Ground Response: This is about understanding and being clear

- 23 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.”



I. Two Responses That Determine The Outcome of Our Dreams

1. **Our Response to What We Have Been Taught.** Was it easily snatched from you? (v18-19)
2. **Our Response to Adversity** (Did I stumble, become offended or become scandalous?)

II. Two Responses That Help Measure the Depth Potential of a Dream

20 But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has **no root** in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

1. **Immature Excitement:**

- Immediate excitement or joy is no indication of depth or commitment (v20)

2. **Determined Endurance**

- Endurance during trying seasons and personal persecution are true signs of depth (v21)

Closing:

III. Three Personal Observations That Have Affected My Dream (I fight off disappointment in us, “The Church”)

1. **Church and worship excitement** has not always translated into a measurement of spiritual depth
2. **Being saved and spirit filled** has not always translated into maturity in the practical areas of life
3. **Bible knowledge and deep moral convictions** about how others should live has not always translated into fairness and equity (Ask women, minorities, children, poor people, wealthy people and marginalized people)

Marginalized Defined: This applies to everyone, including black men and police.

- The definition of **marginalize** is to treat a **person** or group as unimportant, insignificant or of lower status. When **people** who disagree with you are ignored and pushed to the outsides of your group, this is an example of a time when you **marginalize** those who disagree.

Next Time: I will explore how our daily responsibilities and our efforts to provide for ourselves and families can distract and deceive us.