

## Parable of the Sower

‘WAYWARD HEART’	‘HARD HEART’	‘QUESTIONING HEART’	‘SOFT HEART’
Overcome by Satan	Overcome by Tribulation	Overcome by World	Grows and Produces
Matthew 13:4	Matthew 13:5-6	Matthew 13:7	Matthew 13:8
1 Nephi 8:23	1 Nephi 8:25, 28, 32	1 Nephi 8:26-27, 31	1 Nephi 8:30
Alma 32:28	Alma 32:38	Alma 32:2-3, 9-10; 33:2	Alma 32:37, 40-42
D&C 76:35	D&C 76:82, 101	D&C 76:74, 79	D&C 76:51

“We plant in shallow soil and run a serious risk if we read and fail to ponder, if we skim and fail to probe, if we trust commentaries exclusively and fail to go to the real, and if we deal only with coverage and lose exhilarating feeling of discovery related to study in depth. Superficial information has little saving virtue; it will not nourish the soul, nor will it sustain us under the heat of adversity. If we are to establish pure religion in our lives, we must break up the rocks of ignorance and cover them with the rich deposit of topsoil or truth in the holy scriptures.... We fight against God and his eternal purposes and we become root bound in our faith if we ignore one or more of God’s sources of truth. To harbor on the Old Testament and cut adrift the Book of Mormon, or vice versa, is a deadly mistake. God has revealed himself to more than one nation. We must study the records made by all. One account should complement the other. All attest to the same truths.” (Carlos E. Asay, *CES address*, 1986, pg. 11)

“Our capacity to see and comprehend is increased only in proportion to our willingness to look.” (Marvin J. Ashton, *Ensign*, November 1987, pg. 21)

“For His own reasons, the Lord provides answers to some questions, with pieces placed here and there throughout the scriptures. We are to find them; we are to earn them. In that way sacred things are hidden from the insincere.” (Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, November 1983, pg. 17)

“A causal, infrequent exposure to the scriptures will generally not open the door to the whisperings of the Spirit, or provide insights into the Savior’s life and character.” (Merrill J. Bateman, *Ensign*, November 1992, pg. 27)

“There are those who have made a casual, even an insincere effort to test the scriptures and have come away having received nothing, which is precisely what they have earned and what they deserve. If you think it will yield to a casual inquiry, to idle curiosity, or even to well-intentioned but temporary searching, you are mistaken.” (Boyd K. Packer, *Ensign*, May 1974, pg. 95)

“If [you] are acquainted with the revelations, there is no question — personal or social or political or occupational — that need go unanswered. Therein is contained the fulness of truth that will resolve every confusion and every problem and every dilemma that will face the human family or any individual in it.” (Boyd K. Packer, *CES address*, October 14, 1977)

“We often hear it said that the scriptures have the answers to all our questions. Why is this so? It is not that the scriptures contain a specific answer to every question—even to every doctrinal question. We

have continuing revelation in our Church because the scriptures do not have a specific answer to every possible question. We say that the scriptures contain the answers to every question because the scriptures can lead us to every answer.”...To state it again, even though the scriptures contain no words to answer our specific personal question, a prayerful study of the scriptures will help us obtain such answers. This is because scripture study will make us susceptible to the inspiration of the Holy Ghost...” (Dallin H. Oaks, *Unpublished Thanksgiving Devotional*, CES address [Davis & Weber counties, November 24, 1985, pg. 19-21)

- “[the] challenge is not to prove that the Book of Mormon is true but to prove to God that [you] are true. When [you] do this, [you] will know that the book is true. And when [you] prove that [you] will do what it says, God will tell [you] more. You remember, the book puts it this way: 3 Nephi 26:9-11. Over and over again you will have the experience, as you read the Book of Mormon, that before God will give you light, he will ask if you have already believed what he has given you. As you prove the Book of Mormon..., you will realize it is not arguments you read. It is not even great examples or wonderful moving stories. Those will help, and they will hold [your] attention...But [you]...will prove the Book of Mormon, as [you] will prove all scripture, by...saying, ‘I believe it is true; I will try it.’ Once [you] have proved [yourself] to God, then the proof will come to [you] because [you] will see the spiritual fruit... I bear you my testimony that the book is written in such a way that [you] will feel there are principles [you] should try...As you read it, you...will know some things you should do. As you do them, you will have greater light given to you because you will have proved that you believe. I bear testimony that however much you have learned from the Book of Mormon before, you should read it again and prove it. Prove it by proving yourself. Do the things you feel impressed to do and you will find things in it that you have never seen before.” (Henry B. Eyring, *CES address 1990, The Book of Mormon Will Change Your Life*, pg. 4-5)

“Often we spend great effort in trying to increase the activity levels in our stakes. We work diligently to raise the percentages of those attending sacrament meetings. We labor to get a higher percentage of our young men on missions. We strive to improve the numbers of those marrying in the temple. All of these are commendable efforts and important to the growth of the kingdom. But when individual members and families immerse themselves in the scriptures regularly and consistently, these other areas of activity will automatically come. Testimonies will increase. Commitment will be strengthened. Families will be fortified. Personal revelation will flow... Success in righteousness, the power to avoid deception and resist temptation, guidance in our souls—these are but a few of the promises the Lord has given to those who will come to His word. Does the Lord promise and not fulfill? Surely if he tells us that these things will come to us if we lay hold upon His word, then the blessings can be ours. And if we do not, then the blessings may be lost. However diligent we may be in other areas, certain blessings are to be found only in the scriptures, only in coming to the word of the Lord and holding fast to it as we make our way through the mists of darkness to the tree of life” (Ezra Taft Benson, *Ensign*, May 1986, pg. 81-82)