

What, then, would be necessary to make these three classes bear fruit? The road representing the wayside hearer would be required to be ploughed; the rock under the thin layer of soil should be removed; and the thorns and briars must be kept down. There is One present at this service who can accomplish all this. He can plough the hardened heart, remove the stony heart, and keep the cares of the world, the love of pleasure, and the deceitfulness of riches in their proper place, and that one is the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

The fourth class our Lord pictured is "the good ground bearer." "But others fell into good ground and brought forth fruit, some an hundred fold, some sixty fold, some thirty fold." I hope there are many here to-night in this class.

Observe that in addressing the audience the Master divided them into four parts, and only one He described as saved, the other three were lost. In speaking to you to-night He might make the same three divisions, for this parable is applicable to those who attend church. You say "I cannot believe that only a fourth of those who attend church will be saved." I shall make no further comment but place beside this division Matt. 7: 13, 14, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it." Here the Lord Himself says the many are travelling in the broad way to destruction, and the few in the narrow way to heaven. Which road are you in?

The central thought of these verses is that