*Thursday, July 21, 2011*

**The Grand Illusion**

Luke 8:5-8 A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. (6) And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. (7) And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. (8) And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (KJV)

We touched on the topic of tithing yesterday, which we saw was something that took place in the Old Testament, and was not something to be incorporated into the new. Today we have many illusionists who try to make it appear that if you give a certain amount of money then God owes you a hundredfold return. Yeah right people! Like God owes us something, and then responds to what we have done for Him; yikes!

Romans 11:33-35 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! (34) For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? (35) Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? (KJV)

It’s one thing to support your local pastor or organization where you are getting fed, it’s another to get duped into thinking that you are doing something for God and then He actually owes you something. All I can say about that doctrine is that it definitely did not come from a renewed mind in Christ.

Matthew 13:20-23 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and [immediately] with joy receiveth it; (21) Yet hath he not root in himself, but [endureth] for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. (22) He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. (23) But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. (KJV)

Actually Church, we are the ones that should be bringing forth a hundredfold return to our Lord in the form of the fruit of the Spirit, letting it take root and grow to maturity within us. When you see for yourself what the real seed is, which is Spiritual, then you realize how crazy and whacky all these silly hundredfold return messages are when they refer to money.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (KJV)

Are you growing up and maturing in Christ, or are you like a little child who keeps getting duped by silly circus acts and illusions? Given the fact that God is a Spirit, and the only way that we can truly worship Him is in Spirit and in truth, then the seed that our Lord is referring to is Spiritual as well, and not financial as so many false prophets try to promote.

Romans 12:1-3 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (3) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. (KJV)

The real change will take place when you quit listening to a fallen man and start giving more attention to a risen Lord. You see in verse 2 that the stages of maturity are mentioned again; good, acceptable, and perfect, which is the same as bringing forth some fruit, 30, 60, and then hundredfold. If you are being pointed back to the realm of the flesh instead of the Spirit, that is the time that you should be pointing yourself toward the exit.