

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

**Luke 8: 4 - 15; Mark 4: 1 - 20; Matt. 13: 1 - 23**

## INTRODUCTION:

1. A parable is literally "something laid alongside of another thing to measure, compare or explain it."
  - (1) In the New Testament, "parable" means an illustration drawn from natural things to instruct in spiritual things.
  - (2) Jesus never violated the reality of things in His parables.
2. Jesus, in the parables, takes things with which people are familiar and relate them in such a way as to shed light on the unfamiliar.
3. We call this the "Parable of the Sower" -- it could be called the parable of the soils or hearts.

## I. THE PARABLE STATED:

1. The SOWER -- the gospel teacher.
2. The SEED SOWED -- the Word of God -- Lk. 8:11
  - (1) Seed will produce after its kind -- Gal. 6:7
  - (2) The word of God makes Christians only -- Acts 11:26
3. The SOIL
  - (1) The success of the sowing depends in a great measure upon the soil into which the seed is sown.
    - a. The soil must be prepared or the seed will fail.
    - b. The rocks and stones must be removed and the thorns must be destroyed.
  - (2) Such is the case with the soil of the human heart.
    - a. The heart is the ground where the devil fights against God -- II Cor. 10: 4 - 5; Jer. 1:10
  - (3) The word that is sown in an unprepared heart has no better opportunity to spring forth and grow than does seed that is sown in unprepared soil.

## II. THE WAYSIDE SOIL

1. The wayside soil is the path or road leading to the field -- "*trodden down*" -- Luke 8: 5
  - (1) It is ground that has not been plowed.
  - (2) Such soil will not receive the seed.
    - a. The seed lie uncovered.
    - b. The birds devour them -- Luke 8:5
2. The heart represented by the WAYSIDE soil is a heart that is cold, cynical and indifferent, and is affected by dishonesty and prejudice. -- Acts 17:32
  - (1) The word, when spoken, fails to penetrate the intellect and it is left on the surface.
  - (2) The devil, knowing its power, "*taketh away the word*" -- Mark 4:15

### 3. Things that harden the heart.

- (1) Prejudice -- Matt. 13: 14 - 15
- (2) By a desire for popularity -- John 12: 42 - 43
- (3) By the practice of sin -- Heb. 3:13
- (4) By putting other things first -- Matt. 6:33

### 4. No life is produced.

## III. THE STONY GROUND -- Matt. 13: 5 - 6, 20 - 21

### 1. The Stony ground is a shallow soil; it had some preparation but did not have sufficient depth to withstand the blazing sun.

- (1) The plants withered and died.
- (2) The same sun that caused the plants to wither and die caused the plants that sprang up in the good soil to thrive.

### 2. The heart represented by the stony soil is a heart without strong convictions.

- (1) The faith of the shallow heart fails in time of temptation or persecution.
- (2) The response from the shallow heart is more from emotion than conviction.

### 3. Satan did not snatch the word from the shallow heart, but brought other influences to bear against the word.

- (1) The shallow hearts are people who fail to count the cost.

## VI. THE THORNY GROUND

### 1. The Thorny ground represents:

- (1) "*The care of this world*" -- Matt. 13:22
- (2) "*The deceitfulness of riches*" -- Matt. 13:22
- (3) "*The lust of other things*" -- Mark 4: 19
- (4) "*Pleasures of this life*" -- Luke 8:14

### 2. These are the double-minded, the hearts with mixed-motives.

- (1) "*Cares of this world*" -- meaning the normal responsibilities of life -- Matt. 6: 25 - 33; Luke 10: 38 -42
- (2) Deceitfulness of riches -- I Tim. 6: 9 - 10; Luke 12: 16 -21
- (3) Pleasures of this life -- I Tim. 5:6; Heb. 11: 25 - 26; I John 2: 15 - 17

### 3. Result: Life, but no fruit to perfection.

## V. THE GOOD GROUND

### 1. The good ground is rich, deep, well-prepared soil.

- (1) The rocks have been removed, and the thorns have been destroyed.

### 2. The heart represented by the good ground is one that has great depth, conviction, and activity.

### 3. They are those who accepted and practiced the word.

4. Those characterized by the good soil are those who spring forth and produce a harvest, some an hundred-fold, some sixty-fold, and some thirty-fold.

CONCLUSION:

1. What condition do you find yourself in???

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