

The Parable of the Sower
Matthew 13:1-9;18-23
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show what we can learn from the parable of the sower.

Intro: 1. What keeps man from hearing the word of God?
2. This is what the parable of the sower is about.

I. Why is the parable important?

- A. The parable of the Sower gives us warnings.
 - 1. It teaches us the importance of preaching the spreading the gospel. (**Mk 16:15**)
 - 2. It teaches us about the hard times of planting the seed.
- B. The parable prepares us for the future.
 - 1. The parable tells us of the hardships of sowing and reaping. (**Mt 7:13-14**)
 - 2. The parable tells us of the importance of the Sower.
- C. It tells us of the hearts of men. (**Mt 13:3-9**)
 - 1. We learn of four types of soil. (Matthew 13:4, 5, 7, & 8)
 - 2. Men can be as the "wayside soil". (v.4)
 - 3. Men can be as the "stony places". (v.5)
 - 4. Men can be as the "thorns". (v.7)
 - 5. Men can also be the "good" soil. (v.8)

II. Christ explains the parable (Mt 13:18-23)

- A. The wayside soil (**v.18-19**)
 - 1. It is described as a person who doesn't understand the message at first. (**Hosea 4:6**)
 - 2. It is also told that before they are able to understand the message, it is snatched away by the wicked one.
 - 3. There are some who desire to confuse those who receive the word in order to keep them from obey, this could be family, friends or the world in general.
- B. Next, the stony soil
 - 1. Those described as stony ground immediately receive the word with joy.
 - 2. However, because they have no root they only endure for a short time. (**1 Pt 4:12**)
 - 3. These hardships are due to being a faithful Christian (**1 Pt 4:15-16**)
 - 4. The church was scattered due to persecution (**Acts 8:1-2,4**)
 - 5. Forms of abuse: Verbal abuse & intimidation (**1 Pt 4:3-4**); Physical abuse (**Acts 5:40-42**)
- C. Christ explains the thorny soil.
 - 1. The man hears the word of God.
 - 2. However, the "cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful". (**Mt 13:22**)
 - 3. Anxiety over this life (**Mt 6:24-34**)
 - i. Worry over worldly things keeps some occupied with this world.
 - a. Anxiety about the present (**Mt 6:25-32**)
 - b. Anxiety about the future (**Mt 6:34**)
 - c. By seeking the kingdom of God first one overcomes anxiety (**Mt 6:33**)
 - ii. The deceitfulness of riches keep some occupied with this world

- a. The love of money is the root of all types of evil (**1 Tim 6:10**)
- b. The rich young ruler wasn't satisfied (**Lk 12:15-21**)

D. The good soil is explained last.

1. The man who is "good" soil hears the word of God and understands it. (**Matt 5:8**)
2. He then bears fruit and produces in different amounts of abundance. (**Mt 13:23**)
3. The good soil person is the person, who remains faithful after hearing the word, despite the tribulations, and the cares of the world. (**Acts 2:37**)
4. The good soil is one that endures thru hardships, the temptations of the devil and they continue to grow in the word and as a Christian overall.

III. Lessons for us today.

A. The Christian is the sower of the word of God today.

1. We as Christians should be sowers of the word also. (**Gal 6:9**)
2. We must be willing to sow the seed and try to spread the word of God. (**2 Tim 4:2**)

B. The Christian and the soils

1. We should consider what type of soil we would be considered being.
2. If we are poor soil are we willing to change? Are we "able" to change?
3. What will happen if we fail to change our hearts and turn to God?

Application & Conclusion:

1. The Christian must be the sower of the word of God.
2. The Christian spreads the word of God and God gives the increase.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9