

Gospel of Matthew “The Sower”
Matthew 13:1-23
May 21, 2023

Matthew 13:1-9

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear.”

Why parables?

Matthew 13:10-17

10 Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” 11 And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

““You will indeed hear but never understand,
and you will indeed see but never perceive.”

15 For this people's heart has grown dull,
and with their ears they can barely hear,
and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
and hear with their ears

and understand with their heart
and turn, and I would heal them.’

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Jesus tells parable to further illustrates spiritual truths of the kingdom and connect with hearts.

Matthew 13:18-23

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky

ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

“The path”- The traffic of life has hardened.

“The rocky ground”- All my problems aren’t fixed.

“Among thorns” - Added Jesus but haven’t removed anything.

“The good soil” - He or she hears the word and puts it into practice.

God’s present plan for growing the kingdom.

God’s word produces a special fruitfulness.

God is a generous sower

Discussion Questions

- What did God say to you during our Sunday gathering?
- Can you recall a spiritual story or illustration that has stuck with you? How does this highlight the importance of stories? How does this raise the value of sharing your personal story of coming to Christ with others?
- Consider the first three soils. Summarize their challenges and lack of fruitfulness? Is there one kind of soil you connect with? How would you share the gospel with that particular “soil” in hopes of it being received?
- This parable is sometimes called “the parable of the sower” and in other places “the parable of the soils.” What aspect of the Sower stands out to you? How does the parable reveal important things about God and the way He works?
- What role do we play in being good soil?
- How your Grow Group help you apply this passage to your life this week?