

"The Parables of Jesus" # 4
Matt. 13:3-9, 18-23
4-29-16 Sun PM

We are taking an overview at 39 of Jesus' parables. I will look at this in chronological order, and not by category.

With each parable I will explain the context, the explanation, and the application or spiritual truth of these earthly stories with a heavenly meaning. My purpose is not to go to in-depth with each parable.

Jesus taught in parables to conceal truth to unbelievers and reveal truth to believers. Many are "hard of hearing" and do not believe [Matt. 13:14-15].

We begin today in what is called the "kingdom parables" recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. They can be called "sacred secrets" or "The Kings Secrets." [13:11].

We examine "the Parable of the Sower" or "the Parable of the Soils."

Flash news alert- the message of the gospel will be rejected by most people!

I. The Context.

The kingdom parables (Matt. 13:3-52) deal with entering the kingdom all the way to going to heaven. We enter by hearing the gospel and believing (parable of the Sower) and go to heaven (parable of the dragnet).

These 7 parables also teach the growth of the kingdom as these parables progress. The religious leaders had formally rejected Jesus as the Messiah by the unpardonable sin in chapter 12.

But what about the kingdom he offered? Jesus answered with 7 parables [Matt. 13:3-52] that give the course of the gospel in this age.

II. The Explanation.

1. The Sower [13:3].

The Sower would spread seed indiscriminately and it fell upon different types of soil. How it took root and bore fruit depended on where it landed.

The primary sower is Jesus (Matt. 13:37) and you and me are the secondary sowers of the gospel. The sower is anyone who faithfully proclaims the message of the Gospel.

2. The Seed [13:4,19a].

The seed is the gospel of the kingdom which was the message of Jesus and the apostles. The message is how to enter the kingdom.

3. The Soils [13:4-9, 19-23].

These represent the condition of the individual heart who hears the word.

(1). *Wayside soil-*

v. 4- the fowls came and devoured them as they were exposed on the beaten path.

v. 18- These are those who hear the word and don't understand it and the devil steals the seed away [Matt. 13:15]. Birds represent the evil one or devil [Luke 8:12].

Two-fold condition- Their hearts are hardened and the devil steals the seed that is sown.

(2). *Stony soil-*

vs. 5-6- This soil has little depth but sprung up and withered away from the sun.

vs. 20-21- This person hears and has temporary joy and endures for awhile because there is no root.

Could this be the one who was offended at church and never darkened the door of any church again?

(3). *Thorny soil-*

v. 7- These were sown among the thorns and were choked out by the thorns that sprung up.

v. 22- This one hears the word but the ability to bear fruit is choked out by...

1. Cares of this world [v. 22a]. worry
2. Deceitfulness of riches [v. 22c]. wealth
3. Pleasures of sin [Luke 8:14].

If the seed bore no fruit then there was not root or salvation. These have a superficial commitment without truly repenting [James 4:4; I John 2:15-17].

None of these three produced good fruit [Matt. 3:10]. Endurance or continuation is proof of salvation [Matt. 10:22, 32-33].

(4). *Good soil-*

v. 8- The good ground is the only one that brought forth fruit with different levels of fruit-bearing- 30 fold, 60 fold, and 100 fold.

v. 23- This one hears the word and understands it and bears fruit.

Understanding of the word and bearing fruit are connected. When one receives the message and understands it then he will bear fruit.

Not all believers will bear the same level of fruit or same kind of fruit.

The bible speaks of fruit as winning souls, holiness, sharing material things, fruit of the spirit, good works, and praise and thankfulness.

III. The Application or spiritual truths.

1. The message of the gospel will be rejected by most people!
2. The church contains a remnant.
3. Don't be discouraged but just go out and cast seed.
4. Don't target where you will cast seed.
5. The problem is not with the seed, so we don't need to switch from the seed to another gimmick.
6. Sow and leave the results to God.
7. The sower faithfully sows seed and the seed takes root where God has conditioned the heart.

Q- Which soil are you?