

# **The Parable of the Sower<sup>1</sup>**

## **Matthew 13:1-23**

### **June 20, 2021**

The word “parable” and our word “parallel” are related words, they go together.

A parable is a story that is laid parallel alongside a great truth. That is, it’s an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

#### **1) The seed is the Word of God.**

The Bible is the seed.

*For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* **Hebrews 4:12**

#### **2) The Sower.**

The Lord Jesus Himself. God uses us as His instruments to help get the seed out.

#### **3) The Soil.**

##### **a) The Stubborn Hearer.**

*And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.*

**Matthew 13:4**

The wayside is just a path thru a field. It’s part of the soil that has been trampled on, it’s what is used to get to the rest of the field. (cow path).

The trampling makes this soil very hard. Therefore, the soil with the stubborn hearer has a hard heart.

*“Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, in the day of trial in the wilderness.*

**Hebrews 3:8**

<sup>37</sup> But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, <sup>38</sup> that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?”

**John 12:37-38**

I think it was Bill Gothard who told of a student who was in a class and this professor in his college class asked, “How many of you in this class believe the Bible is the Word of God?” He said it with such a sneer on his face that none would raise their hand except for one Christian young man there in that class. And he knew that he must be true to his Lord and Savior, and so he lifted his hand and confessed that he believed that the Bible was the Word of God and that he loved the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior. Then that professor began to cut this young man down. Immediately, at the beginning of the class, he ridiculed the Bible. He ridiculed Christianity. He ridiculed it as superstition, and as fogeyism, and as something that was out of date, and so forth. And then the professor sort of climaxed all that he had to say by saying, “Young man, I want you to know that the Bible is a bundle of blunders and a book of nonsense. I have read it, and it makes no sense to me.” And that young man, nonplussed, said, “Sir, may I say a word to you now?” And the professor said, “What is it?” He said, “Sir, the Bible is God’s love letter to His children. If you’ve read it, and it doesn’t make any sense to you, it’s because you’ve been reading somebody else’s mail.”

**~ Adrian Rogers**

##### **b) The Superficial Hearer.**

The seed in fact did fall and did so on some semi-soft soil, or so it seemed.

It fell on the shallow heart, that is on the rock ledge with about a half inch of soil and rock underneath.

The seed got in but couldn’t get down.

Sun represents persecution that comes because of the Word. Persecution helps Believers grow, but the sunshine will kill a plant with no root.

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<sup>1</sup> Some of outline taken from Adrian Rogers

Superficial emotionalism,

“So many people are looking for an emotional experience but emotionalism never saved anyone. As Sidlow Baxter has well said, ‘salvation is the deepest work of God. Your emotions are the shallowest part of your nature. And God doesn’t do His deepest work in the shallowest part.’”<sup>2</sup>

Story about one who was saved and wanted to share his testimony but was asked to wait a year.

**c) The Selfish Hearer.**

Two crops growing in the same soil. There are weeds and thorns and briars, and there is a rival crop that was not disturbed.

*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. <sup>7</sup> For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; <sup>8</sup> he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

**James 1:6-8**

*I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.*

**Luke 13:3**

Why are so many members in God’s Churches across America so unfruitful? There are no roots, that is they are not saved.

**d) The Sincere Hearer.**

Fruit bearing.

*<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. <sup>24</sup> And those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. <sup>25</sup> If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. <sup>26</sup> Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.*

**Galatians 5:22-26**

*Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? —unless indeed you are disqualified.*

**2 Corinthians 13:5**

**How do I know I am a Believer? :**

Ask, “Have I trusted in Christ? Have I put my faith in Him to take away my sins?”

*Holy Spirit - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

**Romans 8:16-17**

*Conviction of Sin - What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup> Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

**Romans 6:1-2**

*Fruit - <sup>16</sup> You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you. <sup>17</sup> These things I command you, that you love one another.*

**John 15:16-17**

**Prayer Focus:**

- What is my soil?
- What fruit am I bearing?
- Am I resting and abiding in Christ?

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid.