

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ
Kingdom Parables
Parable of the Sower, Part 2

Last time...Jesus taught a great multitude the Parable of the Sower and answered the question,
“Why do You teach in parables?”

This time...Jesus answers the question, “What does this parable mean?” and we will consider the
very serious ramifications of the Parable of the Sower

Again, we will be in Matt 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8
We will get the complete teaching by looking at all 3 perspectives,
the complete picture from the sum of the parts

Since Matt 13 has more Kingdom Parables (captures more of this sermon) than
Mark and Luke, Matt 13 will be our baseline, from which we will jump to
Mark and Luke as we make our way thru this sermon

v18 Hear ye therefore:

- Jesus is now going to answer the “What” question of
“they who were about Him and the 12”, is going to
- explain the meaning of the Parable of the Sower to the
“you” vs “them” (v11)
 - teach directly and plainly the parable taught to the great multitude

Mark 4:13

Know ye not...how then will ye know:
Do you not understand?
How then will you understand the other Kingdom parables?

In explaining/teaching the meaning of the Parable of the Sower,
Jesus will give us the keys we need to understand the
subsequent Kingdom Parables

Which means: The Word of God interprets the Word of God,
man does NOT

v19 “Re-winding” to the beginning of the parable...v3-4...it is helpful, clarifying to read the other 2 accounts first

Luke 8:11

The seed sown is the Word of God

Mark 4:14

The Sower sows the Word...of God

Anyone heareth the word of the kingdom and understandeth it not:
The Word of the Kingdom (of heaven) is the Word of God

Who is speaking of the Kingdom of heaven, Who is the Sower?
Jesus Christ, the Messiah, the King of the Kingdom (Ps 2)

What is “the way side”?

Anyone hears the words of Jesus and does not understand/believe what

He is saying...the Word of God falls on a hard heart

Anyone who says, “I’ll believe it when I see it.”

(heart and mindset of ‘see then believe’)

Anyone who believes only that which can understand with own reasoning
(understand then believe)

Who are the fowls of the air that take away and devour the word?

Gen 1:26...earthly/physical

Eph 2:2...heavenly/spiritual

The wicked one, the prince of the power of the air

Mark 4:15

The wicked one = Satan...who comes immediately

Luke 8:12

The wicked one = Satan = the devil

Scripture speaks of “devils” (plural) so the fowls of the air =
devils/demons

The Word of God is snatched off of a hard heart immediately by the
demons...lest they should

- believe (Hab 2:4 with Gen 15:6 and Rom 10:17)
- be saved...from eternal death, wages of sin

v20-21 stony places:

Same Sower, same seed...different soil

The stony place is a heart that with an emotional rush or impulse or peer pressure immediately receives the Word of God...and as quickly rejects it.

Their heart has a thin layer of soil covering a hard heart...

they have a shallow, carnal heart

The Word is not "grounded" in their heart, there is no root system to find moisture/water (Living)

The sun that scorches the seed is the tribulations and persecutions promised to those who follow Jesus

Phil 1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake

2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution

When "the heat is on",

- this person is offended, stumbles, enduring only for a while (vs Luke 7:23 and Matt 24:13)
- cannot hang onto John 16:33
- the Word of God in his shallow heart withers and is unfruitful "This Christianity thing does not work for me, I'm out!"

Mark 4:16-17

for the Word's sake: because of Jesus, hated and persecuted by the world and the prince of this world

Luke 8:13

which believe for a while...until it costs them something, until it hurts, until it is no longer convenient

in time of temptation...a long, difficult journey in a cursed and hateful world, not a flash on an easy road...requiring

- perseverance
 - tested and refined faithfulness via trials and tribulations
- fall away...deserters, AWOL, abandon ship

v22 among the thorns:

Thorns are a sign of...God's curse on sin and a defiled creation

The Word of God sown into this heart is choked

- becomes unfruitful
- by care of this world...worry/anxiety about life, job, finances, health that choke out peace and hope, and steal the joy of the Lord
- by the deceitfulness of riches...worldly riches are a deception when "put on par" with the Word of God"

Prov 23:4-5 Labor not to be rich: cease from your own wisdom. Wilt thou set your eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven

Prov 27:24 riches *are* not forever

1 Tim 6:9-10 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

Ecc 5:10 He that loves silver shall not be satisfied with silver

Job 1:21a Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return

This is a double-minded man, straddling an imaginary fence between flesh and Spirit

James 1:8

2 Tim 4:10 Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world

Mark 4:18-19

and the lusts of other things...worldly wealth, possessions, Luke 12:15

Luke 8:14

go forth...but stop and go back like a dog to its vomit pleasures of this life...short-sighted since this life is but a vapor to perfection...to completion, to the harvest

v23 hear...understand...bear fruit:

The good ground is the heart that believes, has a whole-hearted belief, and yields a great harvest for the Sower

A newness of life erupts forth from this heart in which Christ dwells, rooted and grounded in love (Eph 3:17)

Mark 4:20

receive the Word of God....John 1:12

Luke 8:15

honest and good heart...a beautiful and good (like God's) heart
keep...obey, evidence of believe = do = love
with patience...cheerful endurance to the very end

It is important to have the Lord's perspective on patience,
its role in His Plan and our reward

Luke 21:19

In your patience possess ye your souls

Rom 5:1-5

the "heat" is necessary to bear fruit...hope

Rom 15:5

be with each other like our longsuffering Father

Heb 12:1-2

run with "eyes on the joy"

James 1:2-4

let cheerful endurance work...produce fruit

Rev 3:10

cheerfully enduring and kept from greatest heat

Rev 14:12

"keeping the faith"

Yielding a harvest requires, good soil, water, heat, cheerful endurance;
the harvest is at...the end, not the beginning or middle

At this point, Mark and Luke record words of Jesus not recorded in Matt

Mark 4:21-22

Is a candle (light) brought into a house (heart) and put under a bushel basket or under a bed?

No, a candle (light) is put on a candlestick (light bearer)

Previously, Matt 5:14-16

Later, John 8:12

Therefore, He is the Light and His followers are the Light bearers

This is a warning: There are no secrets from God,

He is the revealer of all things, the revealer of the hearts of all men

All things (in all hearts) will be made known publically

Hearts have been and are being revealed!

Mark 4:23

Ears to hear, let him hear: The Lord's heart-stopping, breath-taking warning is repeated after the explanation of the Parable of the Sower... to "they that were about Him with the 12" (v10)

This warning was spoken both

- after the parable (to the great multitude, "them")
- after His explanation of it (to "12 + X, "you")

Mark 4:24

a. Another warning: Take heed what you hear

"They that with about Him with the 12"...the "you" of v11...are now accountable to share what Jesus has taught them (Luke 12:48)... to now be sowers of the Word of the Kingdom of God

"They that were about Him and with the twelve" are now commissioned to go share the explanation of the Parable of the Sower to the great multitude that heard, did not understand, and departed

Jesus still desires those people to hear the Truth
and be healed/ saved

He is sending those who heard His explanation to them with that explanation

b. And the more they hear/believe, they more they will be given and understand

Luke 8:18a

Take heed how you hear...not just what you hear but how you hear the Word of God – with doubt or by faith, with joy or with bitterness/grumpiness

And now, in the flow of Mark and Luke...Matt 13:12 (our baseline text)

v12 whosoever has...more abundance...has not...taken away:

Rightly after Jesus' explanation of the Parable of the Sower is this closing word from the Lord

Whosoever has...understanding by faith in Jesus the Messiah...will be given abundantly more understanding by (increasing) faith (draw this curve!)

Whosoever has not...understanding by faith since do not believe...will have taken from him all that he has, being left destitute

Luke 8:18b...even that which he seems to have will be taken away

- the fleeting façade of Christianity vs a persevering genuine relationship with Jesus
- self-deception is the most powerful form of deception
How many Christians are deceived this way?!

Is the Parable of the Sower a warm-fuzzy, ear-tickling Word?

No!

It is a teaching to the hearers/genuine believers and a warning to the non-hearers/unbelievers/pretenders

The Parable of the Sower is sometimes referred to the Parable of the Soils

1. Wayside: hard-hearted, heartless
2. Stony: shallow-hearted
3. Thorny: half-hearted and double-minded
4. Good: whole-hearted

Since the seed is the same and is good, the difference lies in the types of soils/hearts

Why does the Sower sow His seed?

To yield a harvest

The Sower graciously gives all the opportunity to hear and believe...

- to receive/believe the Word of the kingdom of God
- to bear fruit

The purpose of sowing the seed and the warning of what and how we hear:
to make a decision for the Kingdom of God

Every person has the free will to do as they will with the Word of God

Only Soil #4 yields a harvest

These are genuine disciples/followers/learners of Jesus

Soil #1, #2, and #3 are unfruitful...pretenders, are of no value or use to the Sower,
are in eternal danger

Applications:

1. We are one of those soils...which one?

Be warned!

Let him who has ears, let him hear!

People can go to church for many years, hearing but not understanding...
not understanding because of doubt/unbelief, not surrendering to the Truth,
not fruitful

How many Christians in your past did you believe to be grounded Soil #4s?

But subsequent circumstances revealed them to be Soil 2s or 3s...

unfruitful

unable to continue

“Am I one of those?”

2. Those of Soil #4 are now themselves sowers of the Word...Mark 4:24
 - a. Sowers are not slothful, but are industriously about the Father's business
 - b. Sowers are prepared for the hardest lesson of sowing and reaping:
not all seed cast bears fruit
 - c. Sowers are braced for the disappointment of 3 of 4 kinds of Soil to the
Word of God
 - d. Sower are assured that if we are patient in sowing, He is faithful in yielding a
harvest...for His Word will not return back void!
 - e. Sowers are warned to hold precious every opportunity to sow the good seed of
the Word of God, regardless of soil type
 - cannot see a person's heart
 - cannot see how God is working the soil of that heart
 - f. The Sower is generous with His seed, casting it far and wide, to every city,
letting it fall where it may

Could Jesus have gone to only good soil, used a stick, and sowed a single
seed in each hole and yielded 100x?

Yes!

Is that how He sowed?

No, thankfully!

Would you say you have a 100x heart?

Then PTL that the Sower sowed generously

Now Soil #4s are the sower...should sow in the same way

3. To the Soil 4s

- Col 1:10 walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God (2 Peter 3:18)
- Col 1:23 continue in the faith grounded and settled, and *be* not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard
- Col 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving
- Gal 6:1-2 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.

No matter how

- grieved you are by the world
- deeply you feel you do not belong here anymore
- desperately you cry out "Come quickly, Lord Jesus!"

we are here to

- sow the Word of God (the Gospel)
- give all men everywhere the opportunity to make a decision for the Kingdom of God
- make disciples

Go to the Gospel Presentation class, learn how to sow the seed of the kingdom of God

Let's

- occupy until He comes
- be busy about the Father's business of seeking and saving the lost
- not be ashamed at His coming
- fight the good fight
- keep the faith
- finish well our course

Let's gather in small groups to pray...in agreement with, in one accord with our Father...
to let the Holy Spirit write these words on our hearts and to transform our lives

Closing Song

