

## Parable of the Sower—Matthew's Account

1. Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 <sup>13</sup>And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold some sixty, some thirty.

Those who have no root or deepness of the earth will wither away.

Matthew is the only writer of this parable to write this extra detail: He called the seed, not just the Word, but **the Word of the Kingdom**.

**The seed is the word of God.**

## A) Way side

**Incident:** "And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up."

**Explanantion:** "When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side."

### i) Heareth the word of the kingdom

- We need to hear the word, yet not just any Word but the Word of the Kingdom.
- Not everyone that has ears does hear. We have two sets of ears. Physical and spiritual ears (inner ears). We can't hear spiritually using physical ears.
- All grounds or hearts heard the same Word, yet they all had different results. The variable was not the seed—Word of God but the ground/soil—hearts of men.

### ii) Understandeth it not

Much emphasis is on understanding

- Understanding is the first step of getting the Word rooted and deepened in our hearts.
- Understanding is key to retaining truth and keeping them. Whatever we do not understand, we do not keep.
- The reason for Satan stealing the Word is that the hearer did not understand. Understanding keeps away Satan from stealing the Word and a lack of it gives him full access.

iii) Cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.

- The wicked one comes immediately.
- Satan is a thief. He doesn't come to do anything good. He is there to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).
  - Satan is after the Word.

#### B) Stony ground

**Incident:** "Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away."

- i) Had not much earth
  - Shallowness in many times manifests in an some outward greater display.
- ii) Deepness of earth = the capacity of your heart to receive the Word and allow it to grow,
- iii) Sun was up, they were scotched

The sun was not out to scorch the seed, but to help it grow, but because it was on the surface, the sun had a negative effect on the seed. There are things that will have negative effect on you if the Word is not deep in your heart, yet they should have had a positive effect on you.

**Explanantion:** "But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."

- i) Heareth the word

All hearts heard the Word. The Word was the same for all. It was constant in all hearts. The hearts were the variable.

ii) With joy receiveth it;

The Word ought to be received with joy, but there is more to it than just that. We should not stop here.

iii) Yet hath he not root in himself.

- Our root ought to be in us, not in others.
  - We need to have a personal commitment to the Word of God.
- We need to put in the work to develop our own root system.
- The same way a plant cannot sustain growth without a strong and deep root system, no one can sustain growth without a strong and deep root system

iv) Endureth for a while.

- If we have no root system, we can only endure for a while.

v) When tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

- Mark 4 Mentions the same thing. Afflictions, tribulations, and persecutions come to steal the word.
- Notice that persecution and affliction come to steal the Word. We saw earlier that Satan is the thief. So, this reveals that affliction and persecution are a tool of the enemy—Satan, designed to steal the Word.
- Offense is detrimental to the Word sown in our hearts. Persecution and affliction cause offense and the Word is stolen.

- If we have a good and deep root system; we can resist these things that come to steal the Word.

### C) Thorns

**Incident:** "And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:"

**Explanantion:** "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

i) Heareth the word

ii) Care of this world

- "The word "care" used here comes from a Greek word that means "distractions" (Strong's concordance). Things that we occupy our lives with can be distractions that can hinder the word from taking root in our lives.

- Some things are not necessarily evil or bad, but they are distractions.

- There are detrimental to God's Word being planted and rooted in our hearts.

- 1 Peter 5:6-7 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

iii) The deceitfulness of riches.

- Riches can be deceitful. The rich young ruler was deceived by his riches (Mark 10:1-30).

- This is not saying riches aren't good. God made Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, David, and Solomon very rich. These all came as they were focused, serving, and seeking the Lord. Seeking riches hinders them. Many people have money, but they are broke. Having money is not synonymous with being rich. Many so-called rich people are poor!
  - A pursuit for riches will choke the life out of the Word planted in our hearts.
  - We need to be seeking the Lord, not things or riches.
  - Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- iv) Mark and Luke mention three things while Matthew only mentions two (care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches):
- Mark mentions the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things.
  - Luke mentions cares and riches and pleasures of this life.
- v) Choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.
- Matthew doesn't mention lust of other things as Mark and Luke do.
  - Care of this world and deceitfulness of riches strangle completely and drown the Word. They suffocate and strangle the Word, hence no fruitfulness.
  - Unfruitfulness has reasons. We can just be sweeping this under the Word.

#### D) Good ground

But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold some sixty, some thirty

i) Heareth the word

- All grounds or hearts heard the same Word, yet they all had different results. The variable was not the seed—Word of God but the ground/soil—hearts of men.

ii) Understandeth it;

- The Word has to be understood, not just heard for it.
- to take root in our hearts.
- Understanding the Word keeps away Satan from stealing the Word and a lack of it gives him full access.
- The number one way to help the Word take root is through explaining the truths of God's Word and making them practical and applicable to day to day life.
- Matthew is the only writer of this parable that mentions "understandeth it" What we don't understand will not bear fruit.
- "The four Gospels refer to Jesus teaching forty-three times and preaching nineteen times, and four verses refer to Him preaching and teaching in the same verse. This would indicate that Jesus spent twice as much time teaching as He did preaching. **Teaching is the basic building block of making disciples.** Jesus was making disciples, not just converts."—Note 3 on Matthew 5:2 in Andrew Wommack's Living Commentary

iii) brought forth fruit, and increased

- Notice that this ground did not only yield fruit, the fruit it yielded did increase. The fruit remained.

- John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, **that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain**: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you. (Emphasis mine)
- iv) Brought forth some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
  - This good ground brought forth different sizes or quantities of fruit.
  - Not all people bring forth 100-fold. Some bring forth **30**, some **60**, and some **100**.
  - One out of four grounds did bear fruit. This would be about 25 out of 100 people.
    - Of these 25 people, a third brings forth 30-fold, another third 60-fold, and finally the last third 100-fold.

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