

## Parable of the Sower—Luke's Account

**Luke 8:5-8, 11-15** A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit a hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.

11-15 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience

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

**Illustration:** "A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it."

- i) Trodden down

- Luke is the only writer of this parable that mentions that the seeds by the wayside were trodden down.

**Explanantion:** Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.

#### A) Way side

##### i) They hear

- Not everyone that has ears hears. We have two sets of ears. Physical and spiritual ears (inner ears). We can't hear spiritually using physical ears.

##### ii) Then comes the devil and takes away the Word out of their hearts.

- He doesn't come to do anything good. He is there to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10).
- In Job 1:21-22. He says the Lord gives and takes away, but Jesus says it is the devil that "takes away." He takes away the Word of God

##### iii) Lest they should believe and be saved.

- Satan does not want us to receive truth and believe it because it will set us free and bring about salvation—Healing, deliverance, prosperity, and forgiveness of sins.
- Luke makes an additional statement that no one else makes (Matthew or Mark). Satan comes to steal the word lest they should believe and be saved.

#### B) Rocks

**Illustration:** "And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture."

i) Luke is the only writer to mention that the seeds that fell upon a rock lacked moisture.

- The reason the seeds lacked moisture was because they had no depth of the earth and hence no root.

**Explanation:** "They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away."

i) When they hear

ii) Receive the word with joy

- It's a good thing to receive the Word with joy, but it does not end there. Those who do not receive the Word with joy may never see its fruit in their lives.
- Matthew and Mark mention that the stony heart received the Word immediately with gladness or joy, but not Luke who only mentions that they received the Word with joy. He did not mention immediately.

iii) These have no root

- This is a major issue for many believers. A lack of a root system is a huge problem. We need to take time deepening our roots.
- One of the main or first ways of developing a root system is understanding the Word sown in our hearts. If we do not understand it, it will not take root in our hearts.
  - Psalm 1:3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

- Psalm 92:13 Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God.
  - We need a good and strong root system to flourish.
- Eph 3:17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,
- Col 2:7 Rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
- Matthew and Mark mentioned that the stony ground had no root in himself or themselves while Luke simply says had no root.
  - Luke is not wrong. This is not an inconsistency. It is rather Matthew and Mark added detail to what Luke wrote.
- 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.
- Note: He also did not mention a detail that Matthew and Mark mentioned. "they had no deepness or depth of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away"

iv) For a while believe

- Some believe for a while, especially when all is well. If we want to get the best results, we need to believe, not just for a while.
- Matthew and Mark use the Word endured while Luke says they believed for a while.
  - Enduring is believing. Enduring is characteristic of faith. Faith that has endured over a period of time is Patience.

v) in time of temptation fall away.

- Everything you believe will be tested. Temptation will come. If you faint during temptation, it is most probable that you had no root system.
- Matthew and Mark use the words “tribulation, affliction, and persecution, while Luke uses the word “temptation”.
  - Tribulation, affliction, and persecution are temptations. We know well that Satan is the tempter (Matthew 4). These (Tribulation, affliction, and persecution) come from Satan, not God.
- Matthew and Mark also give an extra detail that these temptations—Tribulation, affliction, and persecution arise for and because of the Word. Luke doesn’t mention this.
- Matthew and Mark use the word “offended while Luke uses the words “fall away”
  - To get offended or to walk in offense is to fall away. We fall away when we walk in offense.
- Matthew and Mark mention that Tribulation, affliction, and persecution which are temptations come to steal the Word and cause offense.
  - The word is the antidote to getting offended. If we are offended, we have a Word deficiency.

### C) Thorns

This is the largest part of the body of Christ.

**Illustration:** “And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it.”

**Explanantion:** “And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.”

i) Heard

- This is a common thing with all the hearts or soils. They all heard.

ii) Choked with cares

- Matthew and Mark called this care(s) of this world, not just cares as Luke did. They gave us extra commentary or detail to Luke's account.
  - This seems to indicate that not all cares are cares of this world.
- Cares are worries. There are detrimental to God's Word planted 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) Riches

- Riches can be deceitful (Matthew and Mark).
- Matthew and Mark called this deceitfulness of riches, not just riches as Luke did. They gave us extra commentary or detail to Luke's account.
  - This is not saying riches aren't good. This seems to focus on the delusion or deceitfulness of riches. 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) Pleasures of this life

- Some folks have filled their lives with pleasures of this life. Pleasures are thorns. They will stifle the life out of the Word of God Planted in our hearts.
- Cares, desire for riches and pleasures of this life are like weeds in the garden that compete for the nutrients in the ground that would have helped the crop to grow well and bring forth fruit.
- If we want to see fruitfulness unto completion or maturity, we need to deny all these things of the world that would
- Luke is the only writer to use the words "Pleasures of this life". Matthew doesn't say a think while Mark uses the words" lusts of other things"

v) Bring no fruit to perfection.

- They brought forth fruit, but the fruit was not unto perfection. It was incomplete or immature. This was half-baked fruit.
- This was fruit wasn't ripe.

D) Good ground

**Illustration:** "And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit a hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

- i) sprang up and bore fruit a hundredfold.

- Luke did not mention the good ground bearing different levels of fruit. He simply said hundredfold while Mark and Matthew said thirtyfold, sixty fold and hundredfold.

**Explanation:** "But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience."

i) Honest and good heart

- Good ground doesn't just occur. You do not wake up and suddenly find well cultivated and perfect ground. You will have to do the work.
- Many want good ground, but they aren't willing to do the Work.
- Luke mentions that this heart/ground that brought was a good and honest ground/heart. No other writer says so.

ii) Having heard the word

iii) Keep it

- This is referring to protecting it. The Word has to be protected from the fowls of the air. You need to set up scarecrows to run off wild animals and fowls of the air to have a harvest.
  - Psalm 119:11 Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.
- There is a lot of work involved in bringing forth fruit than many people realize. There is no shortcut to true fruitfulness.
- Luke mentions that this heart/ground that brought kept the Word. No other writer says so.

iv) Bring forth fruit with patience.



- It takes patience to bring forth fruit. You can't be digging up the seed every day to see if it is bringing forth. You need to trust that it is and leave it alone. Patience is a major factor in bringing forth fruit.
  - You need the ground (heart) and the seed (Word) to have fruit. The ground unlocks the potential of the seed, but the seed has to be in the ground.
  - One key thing we have to do is get the Word in our hearts and our hearts will bring forth fruit. The Word and the ground take care of that. We should not be worried about bringing forth fruit if we have planted the Word, watered it, and protected it.
  - Luke mentions that this heart/ground that brought with patience. No other writer says so.
- v) Luke does not mention the three levels (thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and hundredfold) of fruitfulness that Matthew and Mark mention. He mentioned the hundredfold before the interpretation of this parable.