

Parable of the Sower

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PARABLE STATED

USE OF PARABLES EXPLAINED

	Matthew 13:1-23	Mark 4:1-20	Luke 8:4-15
Introduction to the Parable	¹ That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. ² And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. ³ And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow;	¹ He began to teach again by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat in the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land. ² And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching, ³ "Listen to <i>this!</i> Behold, the sower went out to sow;	⁴ When a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable: ⁵ "The sower went out to sow his seed;
Case 1 Seed beside the Road	⁴ and as he sowed, some <i>seeds</i> fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.	⁴ as he was sowing, some <i>seed</i> fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.	and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.
Case 2 Seed on the Rocky Places	⁵ "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.	⁵ "Other <i>seed</i> fell on the rocky <i>ground</i> where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. ⁶ "And after the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.	⁶ "Other <i>seed</i> fell on rocky <i>soil</i> , and as soon as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture.
Case 3 Seed among the Thorns	⁷ "Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.	⁷ "Other <i>seed</i> fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.	⁷ "Other <i>seed</i> fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.
Case 4 Seed on the Good Soil	⁸ "And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.	⁸ "Other <i>seeds</i> fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."	⁸ "Other <i>seed</i> fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as great."
The Need for Spiritual Discernment	⁹ "He who has ears, let him hear."	⁹ And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."	As He said these things, He would call out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."
Interlude Part 1: Jesus' Explanation for His Use of Parables	¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. ¹² "For whoever has, to him <i>more</i> shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. ¹³ "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.	¹⁰ As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve, <i>began</i> asking Him <i>about</i> the parables. ¹¹ And He was saying to them, "To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God, but those who are outside get everything in parables, ¹² so that WHILE SEEING, THEY MAY SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE, AND WHILE HEARING, THEY MAY HEAR AND NOT UNDERSTAND, OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT RETURN AND BE FORGIVEN."	⁹ His disciples <i>began</i> questioning Him as to what this parable meant. ¹⁰ And He said, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest <i>it is</i> in parables, so that SEEING THEY MAY NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY MAY NOT UNDERSTAND.

USE OF PARABLES EXPLAINED (cont)

Interlude Part 2: Appeal to Isaiah 6:9-10 to explain the lack of spiritual understanding	¹⁴ "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE; ¹⁵ FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'		
Interlude Part 3: Comments to the Disciples	¹⁶ "But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. ¹⁷ "For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see <i>it</i> , and to hear what you hear, and did not hear <i>it</i> .	¹³ And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?"	

INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLE

Interpretation Introduced	¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower.	¹⁴ "The sower sows the word.	¹¹ "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.
Case 1 Seed beside the Road	¹⁹ "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil <i>one</i> comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.	¹⁵ "These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.	¹² "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.
Case 2 Seed on the Rocky Places	²⁰ "The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no <i>firm</i> root in himself, but is <i>only</i> temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.	¹⁶ "In a similar way these are the ones on whom seed was sown on the rocky <i>places</i> , who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; ¹⁷ and they have no <i>firm</i> root in themselves, but are <i>only</i> temporary; then, when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they fall away.	¹³ "Those on the rocky <i>soil</i> are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no <i>firm</i> root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation fall away.
Case 3 Seed among the Thorns	²² "And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.	¹⁸ "And others are the ones on whom seed was sown among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, ¹⁹ but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.	¹⁴ "The <i>seed</i> which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked with worries and riches and pleasures of <i>this</i> life, and bring no fruit to maturity.
Case 4 Seed on the Good Soil	²³ "And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty."	²⁰ "And those are the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."	¹⁵ "But the <i>seed</i> in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word in an honest and good heart, and hold it fast, and bear fruit with perseverance.