

The Kingdom Parables

The Parable of the Sower and the Soils

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

What are parables? Earthly stories with heavenly meanings. The word literally means to lay beside (to compare). A narrative from nature or human circumstance the object of which is to give a spiritual lesson.

The danger in interpreting is twofold

1. *Missing the main teaching*
2. *Making all the details mean something*

Why did Jesus use parables? **Matthew 13:10-17**

Jesus explained that His use of parables had a two-fold purpose: to reveal the truth to those who wanted to know it and to conceal the truth from those who were indifferent.

Note the progression - all hear but not all understand

We hear with ears, see with eyes but understand with heart

The Sower and the Soils Read **Matthew 13:1-9**

I. The Sower and the Seed

A. Same sower - one who sows by hand seed

Common method of planting - all understood

B. Same seed

Matthew - word of the kingdom

Mark - the word, Luke - the word of God

II. The Soils

A. Hardened Soil

1. **Footpath trampled down** by many walking on it
Heart that has become a thoroughfare trampled by sin
Never broken up by conviction for sin, no understanding
Never softened by repentance - hardened to the Word
2. **Word is stolen away** by birds (evil one - Satan- the devil)
Stolen by pride, doubt, prejudice, stubbornness,
procrastination - but mostly by love of iniquity.

B. Shallow soil

1. **Shallow soil over rock** - not deep roots
Joy without perseverance
2. **No roots to provide strength**
3. **Affliction and persecution because of the Word**
Costs - relationships, family and friends turn away
Not more than we can bear - **I Corinthians 10:12-13**
2 Timothy 3:12

C. Weedy soil

1. **Good soil but infested with weeds**
(Seed is foreign but weeds are natural)
Plant begins to grow but weeds drain the soil
2. **Weeds identified -the passion and priorities of life**
Worries of the world
Deceitfulness of riches
Desire for other things
James calls it adultery - . **James 4:4**
We have to decide what we want most.
3. **Not killed but rendered unfruitful**
Bring no fruit to maturity - Luke
Fruit is the sign of discipleship

D. Good Soil

1. **Hears the Word and understands**
Accepts the truth and repents of sin
Allows the Spirit to work in all areas of life
2. **Is fruitful** - but not in comparison with others
Some 100 fold - Some 60 -Some 30 -

Conclusion

It is the condition of the heart to receive the Word that makes the difference.

Lessons to learn

- *Christ came to share the Word of God with everyone.
- * **Sow the Word generously - some will respond**
The more seed you sow,
- the more likely some will find good soil
- * **Salvation is more than just a superficial hearing of the Word**
- * **Joy is great but not enough - God desires fruit**

The Great Hope

Soils can be prepared

Prepare the soil of your heart

Repentance - remove the stones

Seeking the Lord - soften with confession

Establishing strong roots

In the Word, prayer and service