

Lesson One: The Parable of the Sower

Lesson Text: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-8,13-20; Luke 8:4-8,11-15

Matthew 13:1-16

1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. (KJV)

1. In what part of Palestine was this parable spoken? Do you think that would have any particular significance in relation to the content of the parable? Explain your answer.
2. What four types of soil are referred to in the parable?
3. What resulted when the seed fell on each type of soil?
4. What were the various reactions to this parable?
5. Why was Jesus speaking in parables?
6. What does the "seed" represent? Why, in your estimation, is this such an appropriate figure?
7. What does the "way side" soil represent?
8. What does the "stony" soil represent?
9. What does the "thorny" soil represent?
10. What does the "good" soil represent?
11. What do you believe is the main lesson to be learned from this parable?