

The Parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:1-23)



Introduction

- Chapter 13: Third/Parabolic Discourse
 - Chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; 24-25
 - Chapters 11-12 Responses => Why? (13)
- 13:1-53 Eight Parables of the Kingdom
 1. The Sower and the Soils (1-9; [10-17]; 18-23)
 2. The Wheat and the Weeds (24-30; [34-35]; 36-43)
 - 3-4 The Mustard Seed (31-32) & The Leaven (33)
 - 5-6 The Hidden Treasure (44) & The Pearl (45-46)
 7. The Net (47-50)
 8. The House Master (51-53) [The Prophet 54-58]

The Parable of the Sower (1-9)

- Setting (1-3a)
- Parable of the Sower and Four Soils (3b-9)
 - The Sower Sowing the Seeds
 1. Seeds along the Path Devoured by the Birds (4)
 2. Seeds on Rocky Ground (5-6)
 3. Seeds among Thorns (7)
 4. Seeds on Good Soil (8)
 - Invitation to Hear (9)

The Purpose of the Parables (10-17; 34-35)

- 10-17 The Secrets of the Kingdom
 - The Disciples' Question: Why? (10)
 - Jesus' Answer (11-12; 13)
 - The Prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled (14-15)
 - Blessed are your eyes and ears (16-17)
- 34-35 Prophecy and Parables
 - Double Purposes of Parables (God's Grace)
 - ❖ Disciples => Revelation of Mysteries of Kingdom
 - ❖ Crowds => Challenge to Respond (cf. John 6:66)
 - Seeing they do not see; Hearing they do not hear

The Parable of the Sower Explained (18-23)

- “Hear then the parable of the sower:” (18)
 1. Anyone hears but does not Understand the word (19)
 2. Receives the word with joy but no Root (20-21)
 3. The Cares of the World and the Deceitfulness of Riches (22)
 4. Understand the word and bears fruit (23)
- ❖ Secrets/Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven

Conclusion: Receptivity

- **The Gospel of the Kingdom**
- **Faith – Receiving Heart**
- **Overcoming Obstacles**
 - **Hardened Heart (Blessed are the Poor)**
 - **Stony Heart without Root (Commitment)**
 - **Thorny Heart (Purifying/Sanctifying Repentance)**
- **Good Soil – Understanding/Persevering Faith and Prayer => Bearing Fruit 100-60-30 Times**
- **Spiritual Growth/Fruitfulness (Ps. 1, 119)**