



The Parable of the Soils

Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8

The Parable of the Sower / Parable of the Soils

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. Matthew 13: 1-9

Main questions for today:

- What is significant about this parable?
- Why, at this point in Jesus' ministry, did Jesus tell this parable?
- What are the applications for this parable?

A brief outline of Matthew - up to the parable of the soils

- Our Lord's genealogy and birth
- John the Baptist - the forerunner of Christ
- Christ's baptism
- The temptation of Jesus
- The sermon on the Mount
- Healing and miracles
- Sending out the disciples
- John the baptist and questions about Jesus' ministry
- Woe to certain cities
- Confronting the Pharisees
- The Parable of the Soils (a.k.a the parable of the Sower)

Wise man and the house on the rock

Matthew 7:24

- A very straightforward illustration
- Simple picture that 'comes along side' of a spiritual truth
- This parable was easily understood

Miracles upon miracles

For example, see Matt. 9:32-34

“ And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

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Chorazin and Bethsaida - Matt 11:20

- Why did our Lord 'upraid' or publicly denounce these cities?

The Sign of Jonah - Matt. 12:38

- No more signs would be given, except for the Sign of Jonah
- What was the sign of Jonah?
 - “So shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth”
- “The men of Nineveh shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas”

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A key turning point - The Parable of the Soils

What is different about the parable of the soils compared to the teachings and parables up to this point?

-Jesus *begins* with the parable, not with the spiritual truth of which the parable 'comes along side'

-The physical meaning was simple.

-The spiritual meaning of his teaching was hidden/concealed, except from those who committed to following him.

Ways to react to difficult / puzzling teaching

- Avoid it
- Give up on it
- Dismiss it
- Ridicule it
- Change it
- Meditate and or ruminate on it
- Ask about it
- Look into it

⇒ What do you do when facing difficult teachings? How important is the source of those teachings?

How did the disciples respond to the parable of the Soils?

- They recognized that something was different with Jesus' teaching and asked him about it:
 - "Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" (Matt 13:10)
- They asked about the meaning:
 - "And when he was alone, they that were about him with the twelve asked of him the parable" Mark 4:10
 - "What might this parable be?" Luke 8:9

A confounding parable

Jesus refers to Isaiah to explain why he is teaching in such a way:

The parts of the parable

- The Sower
- The Seed
- The Soil
 - The hard soil
 - The rocky soil
 - The thorny soil
 - The good soil

The key quality of bad soil

- No Fruit!!

What about the multitudes of our generation?

- Self-seeking
- Love things that make them feel good about themselves
- They are unrepentant
- John 3:20

What about our generation?

- How are we to approach them?
- We need to understand that their hearts need changing
- They cannot just add spiritual things to their corrupt hearts
- They need to know why they need Jesus
- We need to shine the light of his Word, so that their deeds should be reproved (John 3:20)
- The law to the proud, grace to the humble

What happens to a repentant heart that receives the seed of Truth?

- Always produces fruit



Cultivating good soil

- Always keep evaluating ourselves
- Have you experienced the fruit of repentance?
- Can you look back in the past year or two and see growth / and fruit?
- How do you view the Author - the source of the Word? Do you hold him for who he claims to be? What is the result of such faith?
- How is sin affecting your growth?
- Cultivate



The meaning behind the parable, only for those who have ears to hear

Four soils: the way side; the rocky soil; the thorny soil; the good soil

The seed by the way side:

-“When anyone heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one”

The meaning behind the parable - stony ground

The stony places:

-“But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it. Yet he hath not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended [falls away]”

The meaning behind the parable - the thorny soil

Among the thorns:

-“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; the the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful”

The meaning behind the parable - the good soil

The good ground:

-“But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty”

The good soil

- Has understanding
- The repentant heart
- Produces abundant fruit

