

# The Parable of the Sower

## Matthew 13:1-23



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#### “The Parable of the Sower”

**John 15:8** <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this: that you **produce much fruit** and **prove to be My disciples**...Every branch in Me that **does not produce fruit** He **removes**, and He prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will **produce more fruit.**”

We are commanded in scripture to e\_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, allow God to search our hearts, to work our salvation with fear and trembling, to be diligent in making our calling & election s\_\_\_\_\_ (Psalm 139:23-24; Philippians 2:12; 2 Peter 1:10)

God’s word also warns us, that in the end many who Call themselves Christians will f\_\_\_\_\_ away. (1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:12)

**Context:** At this point in Jesus’s ministry in Galilee (northern part of Israel), He continuing to draw **large crowds** but also the **opposition of the religious leaders**. He begins **to only teach in parables**. This was to both **reveal and hide the truth**.

“Anyone who has ears to hear should listen!” Jesus is really saying hear and understand, have seeking & r\_\_\_\_\_ hearts.

**Verses 10-17:** Not everyone who hears the gospel will understand it and b\_\_\_\_\_ it. (**2 Corinthians 4:3-4**). **Jesus is specifically speaking to the Jewish people**, mostly the **religious leaders** (Isaiah 6:9-10)

If we have been blessed to hear the gospel, understand it, embrace it, to **never take it for granted**!

**Verse 18 & 19...** The Seed is the message about the Kingdom of God, the gospel, God's Word. Therefore the farmer is Jesus, but also those who share the Word as well, the Disciples, you and me!

**The soil is the hearts and lives that hear the message.** How we receive the Word, How we respond to the Word.

There is **four** responses. Notice that it is **progressive**. Each time the seed **takes a little bit more root** in a person's heart and life. At each stage there is also a **temptation** to the seed taking root as well.

**I - The seed that falls on Hard Soil. Verses 4, 19...** This seed **takes no root** and **produces nothing**! The soil is hard and **completely unreceptive**.

The birds represent **Satan**. When the message is heard but not understood (comprehended, put together), doesn't reach the heart, and it is stolen away.

Satan will do everything He can do to stop the message of the gospel from taking root in our lives! He will blind, lie, distract, twist, cause you to doubt, question, everything you hear! (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 5:19-20; Genesis 3:1)

But **God puts the responsibility on YOU, YOU and ME**, to hear, understand, have faith to believe, to receive and accept the Word of God! (James 1:21; Hebrews 3:7; 15:4; 7)

Don't take for granted those who God puts along your path!

**II - The seed that falls on rocky soil. Verses 5-6, 20-21:** This seed **takes root** and **grows up quickly**! But the sun comes up and kills it, it withers and dries up.

**It is short lived** (temporary, seasonal) and when **pressure** (trouble, difficult circumstances, suffering) and **persecution** (opposition or challenge), **because of the Word**, that person **stumbles** (offended, disbelieves, distrusts, it is enticed to sin, fall away, apostasy.)

Sometimes we are guilty of **sowing a f\_\_\_\_\_ gospel, weak gospel, a w\_\_\_\_\_ downed, or a sugar coated gospel**

Jesus promises us Joy, peace, love, life transformation, eternal life, a \_\_\_\_\_ spiritual life. But Jesus never sugar coated the gospel. His version of the gospel drove people a \_\_\_\_\_! It prepared those who believed for what they would encounter. (Luke 14:25-32; Matthew 24:9; John 16:33; Acts 14:21-22; James 1:2-4)

Gods Word p\_\_\_\_\_ us for the pressure and persecution we will face.

Not everything the Bible says is e\_\_\_\_\_ to believe! (Jude 24-25)

**III - The seed that fell on thorny soil. Verses 7,22...** It takes root and it grows, s\_\_\_\_\_ to bear fruit, but soon thorns (weeds) choke it out, overwhelm it.

This is the person who hears the Word, starts to bear fruit, but eventually the **w\_\_\_\_\_** (cares, anxieties) of this **a\_\_\_\_\_** (world, culture around us, period of time) and the **s\_\_\_\_\_** (pleasure, deception) of **wealth** (riches, possessions) **choke** out God's Word (strangle, suffocate, drown) **so that it becomes u\_\_\_\_\_** in their lives.

Luke 8:14 "and produces no **m\_\_\_\_\_ fruit**." The Idea of **ripe** fruit, maturity, completion, perfection.

If Satan can't steal the seed of God's Word before it gets in, or make us unfruitful with pressure and persecution, then he will use **pleasure, wealth, possessions, c\_\_\_\_\_**, & **personal ambitions**.

The **w\_\_\_\_\_**, cares of the world, the culture around us! (1 John 2:15-17)

**World:** The organized Satanic **s\_\_\_\_\_** that is opposed to God and **h\_\_\_\_\_** to Jesus and His followers; the non-Christian culture including governments, educational systems, and businesses. (Rom 12:2)

The **d\_\_\_\_\_ of wealth**. Not just the culture around us, but **what the world o\_\_\_\_\_ us**.

The danger of becoming d\_\_\_\_\_ on wealth and possessions for happiness, putting our h\_\_\_\_\_ in these things. (1 Tim 6:10; 17-19)

**IV - The seed that takes root and produces a crop. Verses 8, 23...** The seed hits the g\_\_\_\_\_ (honest, excellent) ground, the one who hears and u\_\_\_\_\_ (consider, comprehend, wise about) the **WORD** and **produces fruit**, a crop, 30, 60 and 100 times what was sown.

Luke 8:15 "having heard the word with an h\_\_\_\_\_ and **good heart**, h\_\_\_\_\_ on to it and by e\_\_\_\_\_, bear fruit."

They will produce a crop 30, 60, to 100 times what was sown!  
(average yield which would be about 10 times).

**We don't all produce the s\_\_\_\_\_ amount of fruit.** That's ok.  
Charles Spurgeon "Lord, if I cannot reach to a hundredfold, let me at least prove to be good ground by bearing thirtyfold."

### Conclusion/Application

**Q: Are you and I willing to examine yourself? Be examined by the Spirit of God? Where are you in this parable?** (Path, stony ground, thorny soil, good soil).

We are living in interesting days! Easy to fall away and live unfruitful lives as believers. Also have the opportunity to allow ourselves to be pruned, become more fruitful!

**Q: What does it mean to bear fruit?** Jesus never gives us that answer. Scripture gives us a few answers:

- Growing and producing the Character of Christ (Gal 5:22-23)
- Lack the opposite (Gal 5:19-21)
- Repentance & Changed life, heart and lifestyle (Matt 3:8)
- The words that come out of our mouths (Matt 12:32-37; James 3:2)
- Good Works, serving God (Titus 3:14, Col 1:10)
- Growing & Sincere Love for Jesus (John 15:9)
- Obedience to Jesus Commands (John 15:10)
- Those who do God's Will (Matt 7:16-23)
- Righteousness (Right living, thinking). Eph 5:9-11; Phil 1:11; Heb 12:11)

- Sanctification, Holiness (Romans 6:22)
- Growing Love for Others, especially the church (John 15:12,17; John 13:34-35)

**Q: What can we do to bear Fruit?**

- Seek to hear, understand, humbly apply Gods Word in our lives.
- Do everything you can to maintain an honest, open, receptive, heart.
- Accept discipline, correction, rebuke, repentance. Don't let sin take root in your life. (Heb 12 :11 ; 2 Tim 3:16 - 4:2)
- Go deep into God's Word. Dig into the Riches of God's knowledge and revelation. (Rom 11:33; Eph 4:14; 1 Pet 2:2; 3:18)
- Diligently build your faith with goodness, knowledge, self control, endurance, holiness, brotherly affection, and love (Notice the progression. 2 Pet 1:5-8)
- Count the cost. Be prepared for trials, struggle, persecution, temptation, deception.
- Guard your heart, mind, ALWAYS!
- Stay close to Jesus! Passionately pursue a personal & intimate relationship with Him (John 15:1-7; Phil 3:8-9)
- Walk, be led, Follow, Live by the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:16-25)
- Never stop pursuing Spiritual growth. (Phil 3:12-16; Eph 4:17)
- Keep serving God as much as you can, by serving others. Keep connected to the body of Christ, we desperately need each other!