

**Agape House of Worship
Midweek Service & Bible Study**

**Speaking in Parables Series
The Parable of the Sower**

**Date: May 24, 2023
Facilitator: Pastor Kip Wright**

Matthew 13:1-23 New International Version - The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁰ The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹ He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

““You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused;
they hardly hear with their ears,
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,
hear with their ears,
understand with their hearts

and turn, and I would heal them.”^[a]

¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

¹⁸ “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰ The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²² The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Parable of the Sower – Three main parts

1. Matthew 13:1-9

- a. Introduction – Jesus went from the house to the lake
- b. Jesus gets in a boat because of crowds
- c. Jesus begins to share the parable

2. Matthew 13:10-17

- a. The disciples ask him a question
- b. Jesus answers the disciples – **Why did Jesus take the time to explain this parable to his disciples?**
- c. Jesus refers to scripture in Isaiah 6:9-10 – **Why is this prophecy brought up?**
- d. Jesus affirms the disciples in verse 13:16

3. Matthew 13:18-23

- a. Jesus interprets the parable himself
- b. Jesus explains the result of the seed based on the different types of ground/soil

Things Mentioned in the Parable

Farmer 17 times, Seed 83 times, Path 108 times, Birds 128 times, Rock 149 times, Sun 176 times, Thorns 54 times, Soil 36 times, Crop 60 times - **Why is this important?**

Genesis 9:19-20 NKJV ⁹ These three *were* the sons of Noah, and from these the whole earth was populated.

²⁰ And Noah began *to be* a **farmer**, and he planted a vineyard.

Genesis 1:11 New Living Translation ¹ Then God said, “Let the land sprout with vegetation—every sort of seed-bearing plant, and trees that grow seed-bearing fruit. These **seeds** will then produce the kinds of plants and trees from which they came.” And that is what happened.

Genesis 2:7 Contemporary English Version ⁷ The LORD God took some **soil from the ground** and made a man. God breathed life into the man, and the man started breathing.

Main Messages of the Parable

- The farmer/sower is Christ working through His disciples to spread the gospel throughout the world.
- The seed depicts the word of the kingdom - the gospel proclamation
- The key to interpreting the reception of the seed into the ground is the word understanding – meaning to comprehend by believing by faith
- The believer hears and understands the message and his life produces fruit to prove or demonstrate it
- The heart in relation to the ground indicates that the quality of the soil represents man’s heart response to the message. (Ezekiel 36:26) ***How does your heart affect your hearing and seeing?***

Type of Ground/Soil	Result	Jesus Explanation
Path	Birds ate the seeds	Hears message but does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches it away. (John 10:10)
Rocky	Plants scorched & withered	Hears the word, initially receives with joy. No deep root, lasts for a short time. Falls away when trouble or persecution comes.
Thorny	Grew but got choked	Hears the word, worries of life & the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful
Good Soil	Produced a crop 100/60/30 x	Person that hears the word & understands it. Produces a crop yielding 100/60/30 times what was sown

We all have to choose what type of soil we will be, my hope is that we all choose to be good soil that produces a great harvest of souls for the kingdom of God (100/60/30 fold)