

Eight Parables of the Kingdom—Part 2

"The Parable of the Sower"

Matthew 13:3-9 & 18-23

I. The Seed, Sower, & Soil (vs. 3-4, 18-19)

- a. The **Seed** = **the word of the kingdom** or "**the seed is the word of God.**" (Luke 8:11; cf. Heb. 4:12; 2 Cor. 5:19; John 5:39)
- b. The **Sower** = anyone who shares the Word of God
- c. The **Soil** = the human heart (cf. Jer. 17:9; Mark 7:21-23; Rom. 8:7; Eph. 2:15-16; Rom. 10:8-10)

II. The H_____ Heart (vs. 4 & 19)

- a. Ancient Israel's agricultural fields were bordered by hard packed paths that served as countryside roads (cf. Matt. 12:1)
- b. Practical Truth: seed sown on unplowed hard packed soil will not sink in and take root and eventually the birds will eat it
- c. Spiritual Truth: human heart can become so hard from years of unrepentant sin and rejection of God that when they do hear the Gospel it can't sink in, and it is stolen by Satan's demonic minions! (cf. 2 Cor. 4:3-4; 1 John 5:19)
 - i. "**The fool has said in his heart, 'There is no God.'...**" (Ps. 14:1; cf. Prov. 1:7; Rom. 1:18-32; 2 Cor. 4:4)

III. The S_____ Heart (vs. 5-6 & 20-21)

- a. Practical Truth: if a seed lands on soil that sits directly on top of a large rock it will germinate quickly and grow upwards because it can't grow deeper. Because it can't grow roots, when it gets hot, it withers and dies.
- b. Spiritual Truth: if a person has a religious experience but not a supernatural transformation of salvation, their initial enthusiasm will fade away under persecution.

- c. **falls away** = **skandalizō** (σκανδαλίζω) = "to fall away, to offend, or to cause to stumble" (cf. 2 Tim. 3:12; Heb. 6:4-6; 1 John 2:19; 2 Tim. 2:12; Mark 13:13; Heb. 3:14; John 8:31)

IV. The L_____ Heart (vs. 7 & 22)

- a. Practical Truth: if you allow weeds to infiltrate your fields or gardens, eventually they will rob your crops of all the light, moisture, and nourishment they need, until there is no harvest left.
 - i. **thorns** = **akantha** (ἄκανθα) = "thorn plant, thistle, brier" or "thornbush"
- b. Spiritual Truth: if someone is not truly converted by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, they will eventually allow their love for the world to choke out what they thought was love for God.
 - i. "²¹ **for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.**" (Matt. 6:21; Matt. 19:23-24; James 4:4; Mark 10:25; Luke 18:23)
- c. They are like the rich man who wanted to build bigger barns in Luke 12 and Demas in 2 Timothy (cf. Luke 12:20ff; 2 Tim. 4:9; Col. 4:14; Philemon 1:24)

V. The O_____ Heart (vs. 8 & 23)

- a. The Practical Truth: if the soil is properly prepared by opening it up, removing the hidden rocks, and eradicating the thornbushes and weeds, it will yield a large crop.
- b. The Spiritual Truth: it is only the heart that God has prepared by the convicting and regenerating work of the Holy Spirit that is actually saved and therefore brings forth genuine spiritual fruit (John 15:1, 4-5; cf. Phil. 2:12-13)
- c. The fruit of salvation is the supernaturally transformed life of a Believer that brings Glory to God through Jesus Christ (cf. Gal. 5:22-23; Matt. 7:16; 9:37-38; John 15:1-17; Rom. 6:22; Col. 1:6, 10; Rom. 1:13; 15:25-28; Heb. 13:15)