



THE SOWER

PART 1 MATTHEW 13:1-23

Matthew 13:1-17, *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear."*

The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 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. This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: " 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. 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.' But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. 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."

- ✳ **Parable** | *Para*: alongside of & *Ballo*: throw/set. A parable is a short story, example, or riddle that compares two things. Jesus often demonstrates The Kingdom of God by comparing it with everyday things (fields, sheep, fishing etc.)

1. HARD SOIL IS HARDENED

Matthew 13:18-19, *"Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 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."*

HARDENED HEARTS ARE HARD!

- ✳ **Heart (*Kardia*)** | "[T]his is a reference to the areas of the inner self, including: the volition, the mind, the desires, etc., though the faculty of the intellect may be slightly more emphasized" (Dictionary of Biblical Languages).
- ✳ **Understanding or not understanding?** | "Perhaps they understand it but not fully: Some people hear the message about the kingdom, but like hardened paths, they do not let the truth penetrate; before they really understand it the devil has snatched it away." - DA Carson

1 Corinthians 1:27, *But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.*

2. SHALLOW SOIL IS SHALLOW

Matthew 13:20-21, *The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 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.*

FADING INSTEAD OF SHINING

- ✳ **Shallow Soil** | The seed planted in this soil simply doesn't last. When things get tough, faith either endures and matures or there is found to be a complete lack of faith.

Romans 5:3-5, *Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*

James 1:2-4, *Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

3. TANGLED SOIL IS DISTRACTED

Matthew 13:22, *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.*

TANGLED PRIORITIES (*don't sound very fun*):

- ✳ Being worried about life.
- ✳ Being deceived by riches.

Matthew 6:24, *"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.*

Philippians 4:6-7, *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

4. FRUITFUL SOIL IS FRUITFUL

Matthew 13:23, *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."*

WHAT GOOD SOIL LOOKS LIKE:

- ✳ Good soil is supernatural since it takes the work of God to soften it. The good soil here can be described as: understanding The Lord's message, and producing its fruit.
- ✳ "The only barrier to salvation is unbelief, and anyone who is willing to accept Jesus Christ on His terms is good soil. He hears the word of the gospel because God honors his humility and opens his spiritual ears; and he understands the gospel because God honors his faith and opens his spiritual mind and heart." - John MacArthur

Psalms 1:3, *He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.*

John 15:4-5, *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.*