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**MATTHEW**

**CHAPTER 13:01-23**  
**COMMITTED OR ONLY INTERESTED?**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

- A. In our last study of Matthew, **Matthew 12** – Jesus spoke of folks trying to get right without Him. It just doesn't work!
1. Even in the case of the casting out of demons, Jesus said that if that previous place of occupancy is not filled with the Lord – the demon just comes back with 7 of his buddies and sets up shop again.
- B. Then we closed the study with the Lord making the statement, "Whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother."
1. And that of course was when his mom and brothers were outside wishing to talk to Him.
    - a) So, once again we see that Christianity is not just by word, but also by deed!
      - (1) **Matthew 12:50 (NKJV) For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."**
- C. Now we move on the **Chapter 13** and the famous parable of the sower.
1. I think it would first be helpful to define what a parable is:
    - a) **Vine's** Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words - "*signifies a placing of one thing beside another with a view to comparison*"
    - b) **Wiersbe's** – "*a story that places one thing beside another for the purpose of teaching. It puts the known next to the unknown so that we may learn.*"
  2. I don't often do this, but I think the text before us this morning merits us doing so.
    - a) We are going to jump ahead a few verses so that we can understand why Jesus spoke in Parables.
      - (1) You see the disciples asked Him the same question. So, let's look at verses **10-17** first, then we will look at the parable of the sower.

**II. MATTHEW 13:10–17 (NKJV) — 10 AND THE DISCIPLES CAME AND SAID TO HIM, "WHY DO YOU SPEAK TO THEM IN PARABLES?" 11 HE ANSWERED AND SAID TO THEM, "BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU TO KNOW THE MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN, BUT TO THEM IT HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN. 12 FOR WHOEVER HAS, TO HIM MORE WILL BE GIVEN, AND HE WILL HAVE ABUNDANCE; BUT WHOEVER DOES NOT HAVE, EVEN WHAT HE HAS WILL BE TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM. 13 THEREFORE I SPEAK TO THEM IN PARABLES, BECAUSE SEEING THEY DO NOT SEE, AND HEARING THEY DO NOT HEAR, NOR DO THEY UNDERSTAND. 14 AND IN THEM THE PROPHECY OF ISAIAH IS FULFILLED, WHICH SAYS: 'HEARING YOU WILL HEAR AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND, AND SEEING YOU WILL SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE; 15 FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL. THEIR EARS ARE HARD OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, LEST THEY SHOULD**

**UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN, SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM.' (ISAIAH 6:9-10) 16 BUT BLESSED ARE YOUR EYES FOR THEY SEE, AND YOUR EARS FOR THEY HEAR; 17 FOR ASSUREDLY, I SAY TO YOU THAT MANY PROPHETS AND RIGHTEOUS MEN DESIRED TO SEE WHAT YOU SEE, AND DID NOT SEE IT, AND TO HEAR WHAT YOU HEAR, AND DID NOT HEAR IT.**

- A. Isaiah was speaking of the Messiah! He was speaking of Jesus – thus he was prophetically speaking of exactly what was taking place at that time.
1. The disciples saw Him for who He was. The others did not.
  2. True disciples believed with all their hearts that He was Messiah – the other refused to believe. They were more comfortable in their ignorance.
    - a) So, the parables had two purposes:
      - (1) They hid the truth from those who did not want to see, but they revealed the truth to those who did.
      - (2) Those who did not want to see the deeper meaning would simply take the story at face value, but those whose spiritual eyes were opened would see much more.

**III. MATTHEW 13:1-9 (NKJV) — 1 ON THE SAME DAY JESUS WENT OUT OF THE HOUSE AND SAT BY THE SEA. 2 AND GREAT MULTITUDES WERE GATHERED TOGETHER TO HIM, SO THAT HE GOT INTO A BOAT AND SAT; AND THE WHOLE MULTITUDE STOOD ON THE SHORE. 3 THEN HE SPOKE MANY THINGS TO THEM IN PARABLES, SAYING: “BEHOLD, A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW. 4 AND AS HE SOWED, SOME SEED FELL BY THE WAYSIDE; AND THE BIRDS CAME AND DEVOURED THEM. 5 SOME FELL ON STONY PLACES, WHERE THEY DID NOT HAVE MUCH EARTH; AND THEY IMMEDIATELY SPRANG UP BECAUSE THEY HAD NO DEPTH OF EARTH. 6 BUT 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 SPRANG UP AND CHOKED THEM. 8 BUT OTHERS FELL ON GOOD GROUND AND YIELDED A CROP: SOME A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME THIRTY. 9 HE WHO HAS EARS TO HEAR, LET HIM HEAR!”**

- A. Now to many who heard this, it was nothing more than yadda yadda yadda – seeds – yadda yadda – sowing – yadda yadda crop – yadda yadda – 100, 60, and 30.
1. I see that look on some folks' faces every week! In other words – they just don't get it. No matter how hard to try to explain it.
    - a) You see I think it has a great deal to do with the way we listen.
    - b) I think we can listen with the ears, or we can listen with the heart and of course the best kind of listen is to listen with both!
      - (1) You see when we listen with our ears only – it is because we are “interested.”
        - (a) You might say, “Well that is a good thing.” However, when we are only “interested” in something – we will only do it if it is convenient.
      - (2) But if we listen with our ears and our heart, we are “committed!”
        - (a) And you see the difference between “interest” and “commitment”, is that when we are committed, we will follow through no matter what!
          - (i) I think many times people are “interested” in what the

pastor has to say but not “committed” to it.

- (ii) I think many times people are “interested” in Jesus but won’t “commit” to Him.

- (a) Where do we stand this morning, “interested”, or “committed”?

- B. We don’t have to guess at the interpretation of the parable of the sower – Jesus explains it to His Disciples after the crowd dissipates.

**IV. MATTHEW 13:18–23 (NKJV) — 18 “THEREFORE HEAR THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: 19 WHEN ANYONE HEARS THE WORD OF THE KINGDOM, AND DOES NOT UNDERSTAND *IT*, THEN THE WICKED *ONE* COMES AND SNATCHES AWAY WHAT WAS SOWN IN HIS HEART. THIS IS HE WHO RECEIVED SEED BY THE WAYSIDE. 20 BUT HE WHO RECEIVED THE SEED ON STONY PLACES, THIS IS HE WHO HEARS THE WORD AND IMMEDIATELY RECEIVES IT WITH JOY; 21 YET HE HAS NO ROOT IN HIMSELF, BUT ENDURES ONLY FOR A WHILE. FOR WHEN TRIBULATION OR PERSECUTION ARISES BECAUSE OF THE WORD, IMMEDIATELY HE STUMBLES. 22 NOW HE WHO RECEIVED SEED AMONG THE THORNS IS HE WHO HEARS THE WORD, AND THE CARES OF THIS WORLD AND THE DECEITFULNESS OF RICHES CHOKE THE WORD, AND HE BECOMES UNFRUITFUL. 23 BUT HE WHO RECEIVED SEED ON THE GOOD GROUND IS HE WHO HEARS THE WORD AND UNDERSTANDS *IT*, WHO INDEED BEARS FRUIT AND PRODUCES: SOME A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME THIRTY.”**

- A. Many hear, but few understand because they do not want to understand. With understanding comes accountability.
  - 1. Think about it – if we really want to understand something – we take the time to do the research.
    - a) This is the seed sown beside the road – satan takes away the seed.
- B. Others hear the word of God and it even brings the “good feelings” – but it is only temporary because they do not allow it to take root and grow.
  - 1. So, at the first sign of difficulty – they are gone back into the world.
    - a) This is the seed sown in rocky places.
- C. Still others hear the word of God but can’t get past the cares of this world.
  - 1. Money and things have too strong of a hold on them and they worry all the time because they don’t have enough of them!
    - a) This is the seed sown among thorns.
- D. And lastly there are those who hear the word of God, they understand it and apply it to their lives and as a result – their lives are a beautiful example of the Lord goodness and bounty!
  - 1. They are like a tree *firmly* planted by streams of water, Which yields its fruit in its season And its leaf does not wither; And in whatever he does, he prospers.  
**Psalm 1:3**
  - 2. This kind of Christian reproduces some 100 fold, others 60 fold and other 30!

## V. CONCLUSION

- A. The multitude didn't get it – the disciples did!
  - 1. The multitude was “interested” but the disciples were “committed.”
  - 2. And I will close with that classic story about Farmer Joes Breakfast:

*Farmer Joe was the sort of guy who was always POPULAR with his farmyard animals. They loved him. And always wanted to please him. One day the chicken says to the pig, 'Hey pig, why don't we do something nice for farmer Joe? Why don't we give him BACON AND EGGS for breakfast tomorrow?' The pig thinks about it for a couple of seconds. And then says to the chicken, 'That's easy for you to say, all you've gotta give is a couple of eggs. I've gotta GIVE UP EVERYTHING!'*

- a) For the pig that was total commitment!
- b) Are you “interested” or “committed.”