

The Parable of the Farmer or Sower: How a Man Receives the Gospel

Mathew 13:01–09

(Mt. 13:18-23; Mk 4:1-9; Lk 8:4-15)

1. *Christ preached a parable*

- a. On the Sabbath
- b. By the seashore in a ship
- c. Large crowds gathered:
So many,
he was pressed to get into a boat

2. *A farmer went forth to sow seed (a symbol of the Word of God), see vv. 18-23 for interpretation of this parable*

3. *A large number did not allow the Word to take permanent root, vv. 18-22*

- a. Some received the Word on a hard path (hard heart)
- b. Some received the Word in rocky places

- c. Some received the Word among thorns

4. *Only a small number allowed the Word to take permanent root*

5. *Only a few allowed the Word to bear 100 percent fruit*

6. *A strong call: Hear*

- 1 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 He who has ears, let him hear.”

**The Messiah's Reasons for Speaking in Parables:
Who Receives and Who Loses
Mathew 13:10-17**

(Mk 4:10-12; Lk 8:9 10; 10:23-24)

1. Reason 1:

*Spiritual understanding is given
to believers, not to unbelievers*

- a. The disciples questioned Jesus
- b. The clear statement
 - 1) God reveals the truth to believers
 - 2) God does not reveal the truth to unbelievers

2. Reason 2:

Seekers and achievers receive more

- a. Some seek and will receive more
- b. Some do not seek and will lose even what they have

3. Reason 3:

*Unbelievers reject the truth
– wilfully refuse to be open
and to understand*

- a. Their rejection prophesied.
Isa 6:9-10; Jn 12:39-41
- b. Their rejection described
 - 1) Harden their hearts
 - 2) Deafen their ears
 - 3) Close their eyes
 - 4) Deny what they see
 - 5) Refuse understanding
 - 6) Fight conversion and healing

4. Reason 4:

*Believers receive the truth
and are blessed*

- a. They see and hear
- b. They are especially privileged —
privileged even over
Old Testament believers

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

11 He replied,
“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 he will have an abundance.
Whoever does not have,
even what he has will be taken from him.

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.’

16 But blessed are your eyes because they see,
and your ears because they hear.

17 For I tell you the truth,
many prophets and righteous men
longed to see what you see but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.”