

The Parable of the Sower or Farmer: How Men Receive the Word of God

Mark 04:01–20

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

1. *Jesus began a new method of teaching: The parable*

- a. The setting:
By the lake-shore in a boat
- b. The crowd: Very large
- c. The parable

2. *The parable:*

A sower or farmer sows

- a. Sows seed that does not take root
 - 1) Some fall by the path:
Devoured
 - 2) Some fall upon rocky places:
Withers
- b. Sows seed that does take root, but does not yield fruit — falls among thorns
- c. Sows seed that does bear fruit
- d. Sows only a few seed that bear 100 percent fruit
- e. A message heard only by spiritual ears

- 1 Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.
- 2 He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:
- 3 "Listen!
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, so that they did not bear grain.
- 8 Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times."
- 9 Then Jesus said, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

3. *The response to the parable*

- a. The disciples accept the parable
- b. The outsiders reject the parable — deliberately
 - 1) Lest they hear, see, and understand
 - 2) Lest they be converted and forgiven

4. *The meaning of the parable*

- a. The farmer sows the Word of God
- b. Some hear the Word — on the hard path
 - 1) The Word is heard
 - 2) Satan comes — takes away the Word
- c. Some hear the Word — on rocky places
 - 1) The Word is received excitedly
 - 2) The Word has no root
 - 3) Trial and testing come
 - 4) They wither away

10 When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.

11 He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables

12 So that, ‘they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!’”

13 Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?”

14 The farmer sows the word.

15 Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.

16 Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.

17 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.

<p>d. Some hear the Word — among thorns</p> <p>1) The Word is only added to life</p> <p>2) The world, riches, and possessions choke the Word</p> <p>e. Some receive the Word — on good soil — and bear fruit</p> <p>f. Some — only a few — bear 100 percent fruit</p>	<p>18 Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;</p> <p>19 But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.</p> <p>20 Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown.”</p>
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