



The Parable of “the Sower”

Matt. 13:1-8; 18-23

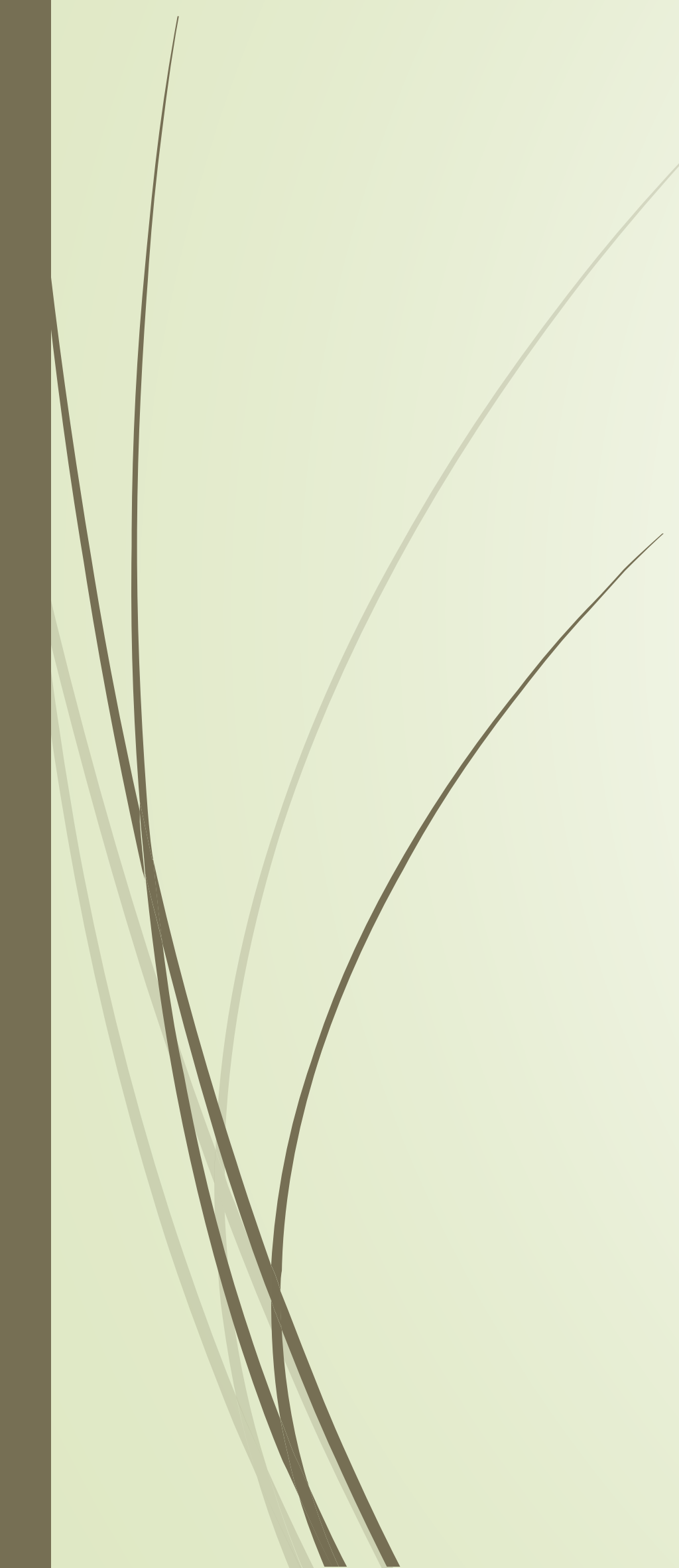


Parables in Perspective

- Matt 13—a bookend
- Illustrating the Key Theme
 - How will people respond to the King bringing and proclaiming His Kingdom?
- Parables?
 - Snodgrass: *“Hardly anything said about ‘parables’—whether defining them or explaining their characteristics—is true of all of them... In fact, possibly no definition of parables will do, for any definition that is broad enough to cover all the forms is so imprecise that it is almost useless.”*
 - A Working Definition
 - **Parable:** A teaching tool that utilizes expanded analogy to illustrate and persuade



One Sower, One Seed, Four Soils

- Sowing (Gr. *speirō*) vs. Falling (Gr. *piptō*)
 - Path → Bird Food
 - Rocky Ground → Heat Death
 - Thorns → Choked Out
 - Good Soil → Exponential Produce
 - Hear, Hear!
- 



Jesus's Interpretation

- The Seed = “the word of the Kingdom”
- On the Path – Satan the Seed-Robber
- On the Rocky Ground – The Fair-Weathered Fan
- Among the Thorns – The Conflicted Capitalist
- On the Good Soil – The Fruit-Bearer
- But What About...
 - Focus?
 - Identity of the sower?
 - Nature of the fruit?



Application in Context

- **Understand** the Terrain of Kingdom-Sowing
 - Hostile to Spiritual Growth
 - *Sowing*, Not Plowing
 - “Seed sown is as seed lost until the harvest comes”
- **Hear** the Word of the Kingdom (Matt 12:50)
 - “Hearing Ears” Produce Fruit
 - The Reality of Tiered Fruitfulness
- **Pray** for Exponential Fruitfulness