



Title: Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven Parables (part 2) – The Parable of the Sower, the Seed, and the Soils

Text: Matt. 13:3-9; 18-23.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the **way side**, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5 Some fell upon **stony places**, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6 And 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 sprung up, and choked them: 8 But other fell into **good ground**, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

Introduction:

1. These parables represent the present age or condition of what the Lord's disciples can expect from the time of Christ's rejection to the time of Christ's reign as King in Jerusalem (at His second coming). We commonly call this the "church-age" since the Lord is focused on the church (as in institution) or since the Lord operates exclusively through the churches for the work of the ministry (evangelism and discipleship) – absent of all "para-church" organizations.
2. The first of eight parables: The Parable of the Sower... (cf. Mk. 4 & Lk. 8).
3. This parable of the Sower, Seed, and Soil represents what we can expect from people as they are exposed to the word of God (the seed). The soil represents their heart ("sown in his heart" (v.19)).

I. The Sower. (13:3)

- A. Here it is Christ – who casts or sows or presents the word of God in preaching and teaching. (see, Matt. 13:37).
- B. We too can and should be sowing the seed of the word of God.
- C. We too can expect to have a similar response – a majority of our witness will not be productive but the few will be fruitful! Glory to God! (Ps. 126:5-6).

II. The Seed. (v.13:4)

- A. Matthew recorded Jesus' explanation calling it "the word of the kingdom" (13:19).
- B. Mark called it "the Sower soweth the Word" (Mk. 4:14). Lk. 8:11, "the seed is the Word of God."
- C. God's word is living and life-giving (able to save, and able to sanctify) – Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23; James 1:18, 21.
- D. God desires for us, as His disciples, to sow the seed everywhere – Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8.

III. The Soils. (vv.4-8; 18-23) – There are four classes of soil (or listeners/auditors).

- A. The Wayside Hearer – hard heart – rejecting the word of God. (Devil) [infernial]
- B. The Stony-Places Hearer – immediate reply but no true abiding conviction. (Flesh) [internal]
- C. The Among-the-Thorns Hearer – choked by the care of this world, deceitfulness of riches, the lust of other things (Mk. 4:19); pleasures of this life (Lk. 8:14). (World) [external]
- D. The Good-Ground Hearer – (13:8, 23). Mk. 4:20 "receive it"; Lk. 8:15 "keep it."

Conclusion:

1. Faithfulness produces fruitfulness – we must go and sow! The seed is good (MT/TR/KJV).
2. We cannot produce the results but when can sow and expect a harvest.
3. Now that we know the context and interpretation of this we can make several applications.