

## The Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:1-13

15 Facts about parables:

1. There are 7 in the O.T.
2. 33 of Jesus; but some have raised the number to 60, by including proverbial expressions
3. No parables in St. John's Gospel
4. The Gospel of Luke contains both the largest total number of parables, 24 and 18 are unique
5. Matthew contains 23 parables of which 11 are unique
6. Mark contains 8 parables of which 2 are unique
7. They illustrate truth and make it clear by comparison with something that is already familiar, like the farmer sowing his seed.
8. They impart instruction and rebuke without causing offense (2Sam. 12).
9. They create interest and hunger for further information (Mt. 13:10-17; 2Sam. 12).
10. The stories are always true, and the points illustrated must not be considered false and absurd.
11. The historical background and the circumstances and occasion when uttered must be understood.
12. Their words and details must be defined literally, not spiritually.
13. The point illustrated is always stated with the parable or is clear by the occasion uttered.
14. The principles of interpretation are given by Jesus Himself. Any interpretation at variance with these principles or with the purpose of the parable is unscriptural. (E.g. the parable of the 10 virgins and symbolism drawn from the oil representing the H.S.)
15. Greek: parabole (par-ab-ol-ay') - a placing of one thing by the side of another, a comparing, comparison of one thing with another, likeness, similitude

Why are parables so important?

Mark 4:33-34

And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, **as they were able to hear it.** 34 But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

He was limited, not by His not knowledge or ability; rather, their ability to hear.

**This is the most important parable**

**There are 4 grounds:**

1. **Wayside**
2. **Stony**
3. **Thorny**

#### 4. Good

##### 1. Vs. 15: Wayside

This is Satan's first business and illustrates those who hear the Word of God and refuse to obey it or profit by it:

- Matthew 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.
- Luke 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.
- 2 Corinthians 4:4-6 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. 5 For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This is why we have to understand our spiritual weaponry, because Satan is always after the Word.

##### 2. Stony: Mark 4:16-17

And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

- a. They likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness ...
  - i. This illustrates those who hear the Word of God and gladly receive it, but have:
    1. no depth of consecration
    2. no root to endure
    3. no stability to stand persecution, trial, and misunderstanding which are sure to come (Mk. 4:16-17 Mt. 13:20-21 Lk. 8:13).

Matthew 13:20-21 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

Luke 8:13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.

3. Thorny: Mark 4:18-19 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, 19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.
  - a. The cares of the world or the lusts of the flesh:
    - i. Cares, Gr. merimna- anxieties
      1. 1 Peter 5:7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
      2. 1 John 2:15-17 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever. Luke 21:34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.
    - b. The deceitfulness of riches or the pride of life:
      - i. 1 Timothy 6:8-10 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
      - ii. 1 Timothy 6:17-19 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; 18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; 19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.
    - c. The lusts of other things or pleasures and the lust of the eyes:
      - i. Lust, Gr. epithymia; a longing especially for what is forbidden.
      - ii. Galatians 5:16-21 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.