

Parable of the Sower
Matthew 13:1-9
By Russ Earl

Thesis: I want to show the importance of this parable.

Intro:

1. The Parable of the Sower is one of the more well-known parables.
2. We want to look at why the Sower is so important.
3. We want to look at how the parable is explained.
4. We want to learn how the parable applied to the disciples and us today.

I. Why is the parable so important?

- A. The parable of the Sower gives us warnings.
 1. It teaches us the importance of preaching the spreading the gospel. (**Mk 16:15**)
 2. It teaches us about the hard times of planting the seed.
- B. The parable prepares us for the future.
 1. The parable tells us of the hardships of sowing and reaping. (**Mt 7:13-14**)
 2. The parable tells us of the importance of the Sower.
- C. It tells us of the hearts of men.
 1. We learn of four types of soil. (**Matthew 13:4, 5, 7, & 8**)
 2. Men can be as the "wayside soil". (**v.4**)
 3. Men can be as the "stony places". (**v.5**)
 4. Men can be as the "thorns". (**v.7**)
 5. Men can also be the "good" soil. (**v.8**)

II. Christ explains the parable in verses 18-23.

- A. The wayside ground is explained first.
 1. It is described as a person who doesn't understand the message at first. (**Hosea 4:6**)
 2. It is also told that before they are able to understand the message, it is snatched away by the wicked one.
 3. They are perhaps willing to understand but are unable to understand before the message is snatched away.
- B. Next, the stony ground is explained.
 1. Those described as stony ground immediately receive the word with joy.
 2. However, because they have no root they only endure for a short time. (**1 Pt 4:12**)
 3. Christ explains that when "tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, he immediately stumbles." (**13:20-21**)
 4. Do we know people like this today? Are we like this ourselves or are we willing to endure thru hardships and various trials? (**2 Co 4:8-10**)
- C. Christ then explains the thorny ground.
 1. The man hears the word of God.
 2. However, the "cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful". (**13:22**)
 3. The man like the stony ground person also ways away after hearing the word. (**Heb 3:13**)

4. Do we want to be good soil? Or, do we allow the world to pull us away from the word of God? Consider this saying about the bible. "*Sin keeps me from this book and this book keeps me from sin*" (Darin Chappell)

D. The good soil is explained last.

1. The man who is "good" soil hears the word of God and understands it. (**Matt 5:8**)
2. He then bears fruit and produces in different amounts of abundance. (**13:23**)
3. The good soil person is the person, who remains faithful after hearing the word, despite the tribulations, and the cares of the world. (**Acts 2:37**)
4. The good soil is one that endures thru hardships, the temptations of the devil and they continue to grow in the word and as a Christian overall.

III. How did the parable apply to the disciples and to us today?

A. What can we learn from the Sower?

1. We as Christians should be sowers of the word also. (**Gal 6:9**)
2. We must be willing to sow the seed and try to spread the word of God. (**2 Tim 4:2**)

B. What can we learn from the soils descriptions?

1. There are those who are may take some time to understand the word of God.
2. There are people who when they hear the word but are unwilling to be faithful during hard times that Christians face.
3. Then, there are those who hear the word of God and understand it, but love the world more than the Lord, and they fall away.

C. How do we apply this to us today?

1. We should consider what type of soil we would be considered being.
2. If we are poor soil are we willing to change? Are we "able" to change?
3. What will happen if we fail to change our hearts and turn to God?

Conc:

1. **Matt 13:9**, from this we know that not everyone who hears the gospel message will actually respond as they should.
2. **Rom 10:17**, tells us that we must hear, actually hear and understand the gospel message when it is being spoken. We hear then we react.
3. How well have YOU listened to the parable of Jesus and His explanation?
 - a. If you are anything other than that like "the good soil", you need to repent today!