

Mark 4:1-20 **Sower and the Soils**

Jesus was teaching a great multitude from a boat on the Sea of Galilee

1 And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. 2 Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching:

Parable of the Sower and the soils [Mark 4:1-20]

3 "Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it.

5 Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. 6 But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away.

7 And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

8 But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some a hundred." 9 And He said to them, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

Disciples granted the ability to know and understand the parables

10 But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. 11 And He said to them, "To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, 12 so that

'Seeing they may see and not perceive,
And hearing they may hear and not understand;
Lest they should turn,
And their sins be forgiven them.'

13 And He said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?"

Explanation of the Parable

14 The sower sows the word.

15 And these are the ones **by the wayside** where the word is sown. **When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts.**

16 These likewise are the ones **sown on stony ground** who, when they **hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; 17 and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word's sake, immediately they stumble.**

18 Now these are the ones **sown among thorns**; they are the ones who **hear the word, 19 and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.**

20 But these are the ones **sown on good ground**, those who **hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirty-fold, some sixty, and some a hundred.**" NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Parable of the Sower and the soils [Mark 4:1-20, Matthew 13:1-23, Luke 8:4-15]

Setting for Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven

- ‡ From the house in Capernaum, Jesus went down to the sea and got into a boat, and sat. From the boat, Jesus began to speak to the multitude on the shore in parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. [Matthew 13:1-3, Mark 4:1-2]
- ✧ The boat belonged to Simon (Peter), whose business partners were James and John, owners of the second boat, they were washing their nets after fishing all night and catching nothing. [Luke 5:3, 10]
- ✧ Jesus got into the boat and asked Simon to put out a little from the shore because of the press of the crowd who were pressing about Him to hear the Word of God. [Luke 5:1-3]
- ✧ Jesus sat down and taught the Multitudes from the boat on the Sea of Galilee (Lake Gennesaret, also known as Sea of Tiberias). [Luke 5:3, John 6:1]

Reason for Parables [Matthew 13:10-17]

- ‡ The reason for the parables was to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. [Isaiah 6:8-10]
- ‡ The disciples of Jesus were given the ability to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven.
 - ✧ These were the ones who had a heart to hear and understand, and expressed interest to know. [Mark 4:10-12, Matthew 13:10-11, Luke 8:9-10]
- ‡ Those who were not disciples, were not given that ability. [Mark 4:11-12, Matthew 13:13-15, Luke 8:10]
 - ✧ These were the ones who came to challenge Jesus, or just to be entertained.
- ‡ Those who have a heart to seek understanding, will be given more in abundance.
- ‡ Those who do not have such a heart, will lose any understanding they may have had.
 - ✧ Because, seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
- ‡ Those who have a heart to understand are blessed because they do.
 - ✧ The things they hear and see are the things that many prophets and righteous men have longed to see and hear, but did not because it was for this specific time. [Matthew 13:16-17]

Sower, Seed and Ground [Matthew 13:3-9, Mark 4:3-20, Luke 8:4-15]

- ‡ The Sower: - is the one who brings the message of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ‡ The Seed: - is the Message of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ‡ Seed by the Wayside
- ‡ Seed in stony places
- ‡ Seed among thorns
- ‡ Seed on Good Ground

Explanation of Sower, Seed, and Ground [Matthew 13:18-23, Mark 4:14-20, Luke 8:11-15]

- ‡ **Seed by the Wayside** [Matthew 13:19, Mark 4:15, Luke 8:12]
 - ✧ When anyone **hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it**, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.
 - ✧ The casual hearer, is not seeking understanding, and his heart is open to any influence from the enemy who will, through many tactics, take away what he might have learned.
 - ✧ He who has not, will lose even what he had. [Matthew 13:12, 25:29, Mark 4:24-25, Luke 8:18, 19:26]
- ‡ **Seed in Stony Places** [Matthew 13:20-21, Mark 4:16-17, Luke 8:13]

- ✧ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who **hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while.** For when **tribulation or persecution** arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.
- ✧ Unless one is well grounded in the word with knowledge and understanding, he will fail when he runs into Tribulation and Persecution because of his claim to have faith.
- ✧ **Seed among Thorns** [Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:18-19, Luke 8:14]
 - ✧ Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who **hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.**
 - ✧ We must always be on guard against the temptation of being distracted by the cares of life in this present world. If we lose our focus, we will become unfruitful.
- ✧ **Seed on Good Ground** [Matthew 13:23, Mark 4:20, Luke 8:15]
 - ✧ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who **hears the word and understands** it, who indeed **bears fruit and produces:** some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
 - ✧ What the heart God is looking for, is a heart who is willing to hear, who seeks out the understanding of it, and who puts it into practice in his life demonstrating fruitfulness. It becomes a part of him, and others can see it.
 - ✧ This is the evidence everyone is looking for when you tell them you are a Christian. It must be demonstrated in your life.
 - ✧ He who has, to him even more will be added. [Matthew 13:12, 25:29, Mark 4:24-25, Luke 8:18, 19:26]
- ✧ He who has ears to hear, let him hear. [Matthew 13:9]
 - ✧ Not everyone is able or willing to accept the truth revealed. [Matthew 11:14]
 - ✧ That remained the statement throughout the Church age, and the book of Revelation. [Matthew 11:15, 13:9-17, 43, Mark 4:9, 23, 7:16, 8:18, Luke 8:8, 14:35, Acts 28:27, Romans 11:8, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 13:9]