

The Sower, the Seed and the Soil

Matthew 13:1—23

Introduction

There are seven parables in the Gospel of Matthew.

Parable = an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.

Parables are designed to help people understand spiritual truth but they are also designed to hide spiritual truth from those that are not interested in the things of God.

“Jesus was concealing truth from those who were denying the obvious”

Verses 1—9 The Parable of the Sower

1. Jesus left the skeptics and preached to the seeker.
2. He left the Synagogue and went to the beach.
3. He is preaching to the crowds wanting to hear.
4. The Parables regarding the Kingdom of Heaven.
5. Kingdom of heaven = the redemptive rule or reign of God through Christ.
6. The Kingdom of Heaven means the King is now here and He is now advancing it through the gospel of Jesus Christ.
7. This is the parable regarding that topic.
8. We need to read a parable as Jesus would want us to read it.
9. He that has an ear let him hear.

Verses 10—17 The Privilege of the Hearer.

1. It is a privilege to know the mysteries of the Kingdom.
2. Not everyone gets to receive the truths of God.
3. Only those with open ears and willing hearts.
4. Some are cynical and blind to anything Jesus said.
5. They are blind even though they think they can see.
6. Verse 15 Hearts are waxed closed, their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes are closed.
7. But blessed are your eyes that see.
8. Blessed are your ears that hear.
9. The prophets and righteous men have desired to get what you are getting today.
10. It is a privilege.

Verses 18—23 The Power of the Message

1. The sower is Jesus.
2. The seed is the word (gospel).
3. The soil is the heart of the hearer.
4. Verse 19 Seeds that fall by the wayside – those that hear and do not understand and Satan snatches them away (Oprah Winfrey/ Teenage Friend).
5. Verses 20-21 Seeds that fell on stony ground – hear and receive but when heat comes they scorch out and wither because they never took root (This is a constant issue in a church).
6. Verse 22 Seeds that fall among thorns – the ones that hear but become enticed by the things of this world. They become unfruitful.
7. Verse 23 Seeds fell among good soil – those that hear, understand, and obey the words of Jesus. Therefore God blesses their spiritual legacy.

Challenge

1. How is your soil?
2. Has the Word penetrated your heart?
3. If you are sowing seeds, do not focus on the seeds that do not sprout.
4. Keep sowing the gospel!