

"The Parables of Jesus: The Parable of the Sower"

Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23

- Laying the foundation of the parable:
 - Jesus was laying out an understanding of what would happen everytime that the Word of God is shared (Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 13:15). Everyone responds to the Word, but not everyone submits to the Word and becomes fruitful. A true Christian is a hearer and a doer of the Word; they hear and understand (James 1:22; Romans 2:13; Luke 11:28; John 13:17; Luke 6:46).
 - At large, in Israel, wheat and barley would have been the seeds that were sown by hand. Israel is largely rocky ground that has shallow soil on top of it (the great crowd gathered). The things that are not wanted, namely weeds, grow much quicker than the wheat and barley. The faster growing weeds, if not dealt with, will choke out some of the wheat and barley crops.
 - *"Jesus was satisfied with the humblest of pulpits. He should have been given the highest honor, from the highest position, to speak from the most significant platform, but instead He exemplified humility. The Word of God doesn't need men's help and men's additions to transform lives, it is sufficient in itself. From a boat, a home, or open fields, Jesus made it his business to spread the Word and so should we."* (Matthew Henry)
 - The Sower is Jesus (Matthew 13:37), the seed is the Word of God (Mark 4:14), and the soil is men's hearts (Luke 8:12). Every human heart is able to be redeemed. Jesus will not reject anyone who comes to Him (John 6:37).
- **Worldviews** that lead to hardness of heart and disbelief that the Word of God resolves:
 - **Atheism:** An absence of the belief of God, or the strong disbelief in the existence of God.
 - **Nihilism:** The rejection of all religious or moral principles. There is no absolute or objective truth and there is no meaning of life.
 - **Agnostic:** Nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God. They do not claim faith or disbelief.
 - **Emotionalism:** Spiritual reality or truth is determined to be true or false based on my emotions or feelings, not an objective truth.
 - **Universalism:** The belief that all humankind will eventually be saved regardless of religion or lack thereof.
 - **New-ageism:** It is the belief that we are our own spiritual authority. People are good and divine. It is an individualistic approach to religion.
 - **Postmodernism:** A rejection of previously accepted ideas, beliefs, or narratives.
 - **The Prosperity Gospel:** The Holy Spirit is a power to be used to get what I want from God. I can create reality by speaking it into existence.
- The Four Heart Conditions:
 - **The Devoured Seed:** There is a rejection of the Word of God. It is either irrelevant, the person is indifferent, or the person is hostile to God and His Word. They are self-sufficient and self-satisfied. They don't want to understand the Word and they are blinded by self and Satan to the Word (Ephesians 2:1-3; 2 Corinthians 4:4-6).
 - **The Scorched Seed:** They are initially excited about an incomplete view of God. They have a zeal in their life but not according to knowledge. They hear what they want to hear. They hear and they feel, not hear and know. They don't count the cost and they do not repent of their sin. They are built on emotions not the Word of God (Matthew 7:24-27; Hebrews 6:4-8).

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Worship: What a Friend We Have in Jesus (Various Artists) O Lord My Rock and My Redeemer (Sovereign Grace Music)**Service Times:** Sundays: Revelation Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7;

Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- *The Choked Out Seed:* They want to keep the world and have the Lord. They don't want to give up their fleshly desires. They are continually preoccupied with worldly pursuits. When they have to choose between the spiritual and the physical they will speak the physical 9 out of ten times (1 Timothy 6:6-10; Hebrews 10:36-39).
- *The Fruit Bearing Seed:* How can we produce fruit?
 - There is no greater benefit to fruit producing than the Word of God. I must long to hear and read the Word (Psalm 119:9-11 & 17-18; Psalm 19:7-11).
 - Nothing can grow apart from God. We are not ultimate in anything being fruitful but we are a participator (John 15:5; 1 Corinthians 3:7).
 - We should aim to produce as much fruit as possible. The Christian is never satisfied with the amount of fruit that has been produced in their life (1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9-10).
 - The more worried, fearful, or stressed one becomes the more they will neglect their spirituality, so therefore these mindsets are great hindrances to growth and perseverance (Matthew 6:33-34; Philippians 4:11-13 & 19).
 - Both prosperity and persecution are a danger to the perseverance of the Christian. Persecution is the visible killer and prosperity is the quiet killer. Trials and prosperity will either produce fruit (glorify God) or will show someone to not be a genuine believer (Proverbs 30:5-9; 2 Peter 1:3-14).
 - The Word, by the Spirit, gives me the ability to stay committed, encouraged, and produce fruit through all circumstances.