

Why So Few Seeds Fell On... “Good Ground”

“Behold, a sower went forth to sow.”

(Matthew 13:3)

Matthew chapter 13 tells us Jesus, *“spake many things unto them in parables.”* The first three parables in this chapter centers around the sowing of seeds.

What Is A Parable?

A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson. It is important to understand that every Scripture has a *single interpretation*, but may have *many applications*. The *interpretation* of these parables has to do with Israel in their kingdom; however, we will be looking at some *applications* that apply to us in our local church age.

First Corinthians 10:11 tells us that, *“...all these things happened unto **them** for ensamples: **and** they are written for **our** admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.”* (Admonition is an authoritative counsel or warning).

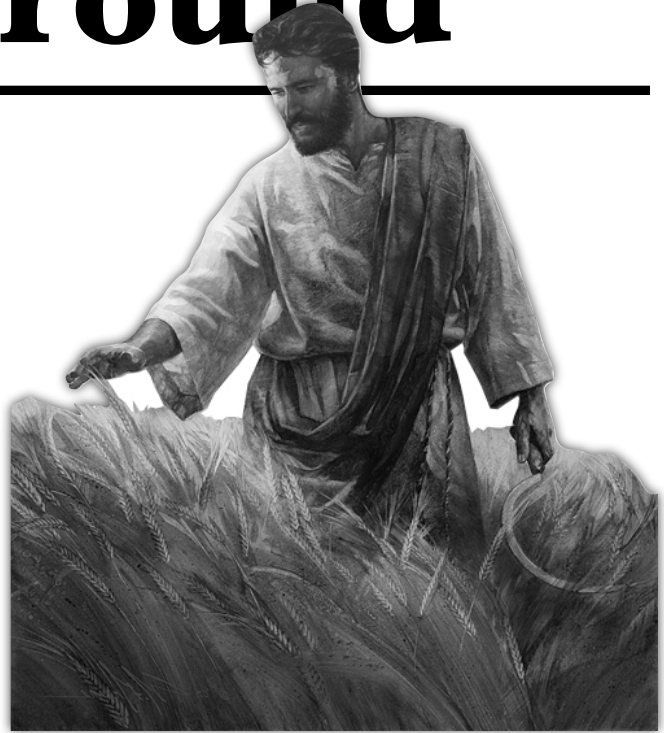
“Jesus Sat By The Seaside”

Verse 1 - *“The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.”*

At first glance we might wonder why this verse is even here. The chapter could have started with verse number two, but it does not. In the first twelve chapters of Matthew the word *house* is mentioned twenty-two times. The first mention is in Matthew 2:11 where we find Jesus as a young child, in a house. A careful check of the early ministry of Christ will often find Him dealing with small groups of people in a house. At this point, however, His ministry changes and we find Him mainly dealing with multitudes of people.

“Great Multitudes”

Verse 2 - *“And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.”*



Jesus was the attraction of the day. Some came out of curiosity, and some came for healing. The crowd was so large that Jesus had to talk to them out of a small fishing boat in the sea.

“A Sower Went Forth To Sow”

Verse 3 - *“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;”*

Jesus began at this point in His ministry to teach parables that were not understood by the curious but only by the sincere. A parable, that is not explained, is simply a riddle that cannot be understood. To the sincere seeker, Christ explained every detail of what He said.

The Sowing And Reaping Process Never Changes

The principle of sowing and reaping is the same today as it was 2000 years ago. As previously mentioned, a parable is a simple story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson. There are many lessons here for us.

First, the principle of sowing and reaping is the same regardless if a person is saved or unsaved.

God has warned, *“Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”* (Galatians 6:7).

We must realize that we reap what we sow. If we plant weeds then we cannot expect to grow wheat. **We reap after we sow.** Sometimes it looks like we are getting away with sowing wild oats; however, we are not. The harvest time will come. **We reap more than we sow.** One kernel of wheat can produce hundreds of kernels.

“Some Seeds Fell By The Wayside”

Verse 4 - *“And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up.”*

Not all birds are bad. Birds eating seeds are doing what comes naturally to them. The problem is not with the birds, the problem is with the heart of the person who hears the Word.

Verse 19 tells us, *“...then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart.”*

While the “wicked one” is behind it, he never comes in person. He always uses some person to do his dirty work, and it is usually someone who is nice. It might be a family member, it might be a friend at work. The devil will bring someone who will turn the wayside hearer away from the truth. Luke 8:12 tells us *“the devil...taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”*

Some Seeds “Fell Upon Stony Places”

Verses 5,6 - *“Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.”*

Verse 19 tells us this person, *“...is he that heareth the word, and anon (immediately) with joy receiveth it;”* however, because there is not much earth, and he is exposed to a little heat as a result of his new testimony, (*“the sun was up”*) he has no root, and he is soon *“withered away.”*

Some Seeds “Fell Among Thorns”

Verse 7 - *“And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:”*

Verse 22 tells us, *“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.”*

Who Is To Blame?

Was it a careless sower? No! The problem was with the condition of the soil. Verse nineteen says the seed, *“...was sown in his heart.”* The problem was the condition of the heart of the listener.

Some Seeds “Fell Into Good Ground”

Verse 8 - *“But other fell into good ground, (heart) and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.”*

The first thing that is mentioned about this listener is that he “brought forth fruit.”

No Change - No Salvation

First Corinthians 5:17 says, *“...if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”*

What part of that verse is too difficult to understand? If a person is not changed, he is not saved. Again, Luke 8:12 tells us the devil, *“...taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.”*

Not every Christian will produce the same amount of fruit. We read that some, *“brought forth...an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.”* However, they all brought forth fruit.

In Luke 8:15 we read that they, *“...on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.”* Notice, they *“hear the word,”* they *“keep their word,”* and they *“bring forth fruit.”*

Why The Parables?

Verse 10 - *“Why speaketh thou unto them in parables?”*

Verse 11 - *“Because...to you...but not to them”*

Verse 13 - *“Because...they see not...hear not.”*

Verse 14 - *“In them is fulfilled the prophecy...”*

Verse 15 - *“This people’s heart...eyes they have closed.”*

Verse 16 - *“But your eyes...your ears...”*

Verses 34,35 - *“That it might be fulfilled...”*

Choices And Consequences

Jesus quoted from Isaiah 6:9-10. The blindness of God’s people was literally fulfilled in the time of Isaiah and again during Christ’s earthly ministry.

They purposely closed their eyes and rejected the truth. Jesus said "...their eyes they have closed." (v.15).

Verse 15 - "For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them."

Their Choices

1. This people's heart is waxed gross.
2. Their ears are dull of hearing
3. Their eyes they have closed.
4. Lest at any time they should see with their eyes.
5. Lest they hear with their ears.
6. Lest they should understand with their heart.
7. Lest they should be converted, and I should heal them. (make them whole).



The Consequences of Refusing

Verses 13,14 - "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive."

The Consequences of Receiving

We usually think of consequences as something negative; however, consequences, can also be positive. The dictionary says consequences are, "the results or effect of an action."

Verse 16 says, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear." However, Christ, also warned those who were open to the truth to beware lest they also refused to listen.

Christ said, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

To the Galatians Paul said, "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?" (Galatians 5:7). Let us determine to be among those, "...that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not." (Psalm 15:4).

Professors Only

The first three examples, "hear the word," they "receive it." (v.19), "they withered away." (v.6), "received the seed," they "heareth the word," and immediately "with joy receiveth it." (v.20). They, "received seed," (v.22); however, they were "unfruitful." (v.22),

In Contrast

Verse 23 - "But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Next Article

"An Enemy Hath Done This"

"But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."
(Matthew 13:25)

The Enemy Mixes False Doctrine In With Good Doctrine And Leaves It Up To To The Pastor To Do His Dirty-Work

1. The servants were asleep.
2. The enemy came.
3. The enemy sowed tares among the wheat.
4. The enemy went his way.

"Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light."
(Ephesians 5:14)