

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

¹ On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. ² And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

³ Then He spoke many things to them in

parables, saying, ⁴“Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁵ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁶ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁷ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁸ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁹ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ¹⁰ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

¹¹ He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

Mark 4:1-20

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:

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 thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.”

⁹ And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

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;

Luke 8:1-15

¹ Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve *were* with Him, ² and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities—Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, ³ and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance.

⁴ And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable, ⁵ “A sower went out to sow his

seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. ⁶ Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. ⁸ But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!”

⁹ Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?”

¹⁰ And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest *it is given* in parables, that

‘Seeing they may not see,
And hearing they may not understand.’

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23 cont

‘Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;
¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing, And *their* eyes
they have closed, Lest they should see with *their*
eyes and hear with *their* ears, Lest they should
understand with *their* hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.’

¹⁶ But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and
your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to
you that many prophets and righteous *men*
desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*,
and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.
¹⁸ “Therefore hear the parable of the sower:
¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on
stony places, this is he who hears the word and
immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ 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. ²² 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. ²³ 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.”

Mark 4:1-20 cont

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? 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 thirtyfold, some
sixty, and some a hundred.”

Luke 8:1-15 cont

¹¹ “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word
of God. ¹² Those by the wayside are the ones
who hear; then the devil comes and takes away
the word out of their hearts, lest they should
believe and be saved. ¹³ But the ones on the rock
are those who, when they hear, receive the word
with joy; and these have no root, who believe for
a while and in time of temptation fall away.
¹⁴ Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those
who, when they have heard, go out and are
choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life,
and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the ones
that fell on the good ground are those who,
having heard the word with a noble and good
heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.