

The Parable of the Sower

1 Again [For ver. 1-12, see Matt. 13:1-15; Luke 8:4-10] he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, [ch. 3:9; Luke 5:1-3] so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea, and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.

- ***In chapter 3 Jesus was teaching in the Synagogue but has now changed his tactics and gone out to the masses.***
- ***Jesus went from the house of worship, to the community and then got in a boat***
 - ***Teach at church, hometown, and take the gospel to the world.***
 - ***The Jewish people could not be complacent and keep the words Jesus was teaching to themselves***

2 And ver. 33 he was teaching them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:

- ***Parable “earthly story with a heavenly meaning.”***

3 ***“Listen! Behold, [Isa. 55:10; Amos 9:13] a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it.***

- ***Path- think about footpaths you have seen or traveled along.***
 - ***Sometimes there is not grass growing if it is a high trail of travel***
 - ***The first paths like this I remember seeing was at my grandparents’ house***
 - ***One of my cousins lived right next door and there was a path beaten out running between their houses.***
 - ***The ground has too much traffic to be concerned with absorbing seeds being thrown on it without loosening the soil.***

5Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil.

6And [James 1:11](#) when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, [John 15:6](#) it withered away.

- **Rocks- rocks drain water fast and has light sand/soil around them.**
 - **Things can grow in this, but when the rain stops and the hot sun comes out for a few days, these plants are dried up and die.**

7Other seed fell among [Jer. 4:3](#) thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.

- **Thorns- The soil here has so much growing on it already there is no room for the new plants to gain access to the sun light.**

8And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and [ver. 20; Gen. 26:12](#) a hundredfold.”

- **Good Soil-**

9And he said, [See Matt. 11:15](#) “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

The Purpose of the Parables

10And [ver. 34](#) when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11And he said to them, [Matt. 19:11; Col. 1:27; \[1 Cor. 2:6-](#)

[10; 1 John 2:20, 27\]; See Matt. 11:25](#) “To you has been given [See Rom. 16:25](#) the secret of the kingdom of God, but for [1 Cor. 5:12, 13; Col. 4:5; 1 Thess. 4:12; 1 Tim.](#)

[3:7](#) those outside everything is in parables, 12 [Isa. 6:9, 10](#) so that

“they [Deut. 29:4; Jer. 5:21; Ezek. 12:2; Rom. 11:8; 2 Cor. 3:14; 4:4; \[Isa. 42:19, 20\]](#) may indeed see but not perceive,

and may indeed hear but not understand,

lest they [See Luke 22:32](#) should turn and be forgiven.”

- **Parables were not intended to be understood by everyone.**
 - They were intended to be understood by those listening with spiritual ears.
- **This sounded strange to me the first time I realized it.**
 - I thought messages should be told so that all who heard them could understand them.
 - **But Jesus gave messages that those who were there searching for spiritual answers not entertainment.**

13 [For ver. 13-20, see Matt. 13:16-23; Luke 8:11-15] And he said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 [Matt. 13:37; John 4:36, 37] The sower sows [ver. 33; ch. 2:2; Luke 1:2; Acts 8:4; James 1:21] the word.

- **He’s sowing the gospel, the good news**

15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.

- **Path-**

16 And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: the ones who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it [ch. 6:20; Isa. 58:2; Ezek. 33:31, 32; John 5:35] with joy. 17 And they have no root in themselves, but [Gal. 1:6; [Hos. 6:4; Gal. 5:7] endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately [See Matt. 11:6] they fall away. 4:17 Or stumble

- **Rocks-**

18 And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, 19 but [See Matt. 6:25] the cares of [2 Tim. 4:10] the world and [1 Tim. 6:9, 10, 17; [ch. 10:23; Matt. 19:23; Acts 5:1-11; Heb. 3:13] the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

- **Thorns-**

20 But those that were sown on the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and Hos. 14:8; John 15:5, 16; Phil. 1:11; Col. 1:6 bear fruit, ver. 8 thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold.”

- **Good soil-**