

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

## Quote:

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.

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.

Matthew 13:22-23

## Bible Marking

Matthew 13:3 - “**parables**” - means to compare together.

“**The sower**” - In the first instance the sower was the Son of Man (v37).

“**Went forth to sow**” - Without the seed of the Word of God presented to us, there is NO possibility of bringing forth fruit, no matter how talented we may be.

Matthew 13:14 - “**understand**” - means “to set or bring together”. ie - to place ideas together to see how they fit.

“**Perceive**” - means “to be aware”.

## Why Speak in Parables?

- It fulfilled OT Prophecy (Psa 78:1-2; 49:3-4).
- It showed how to use the natural things of creation as a means of spiritual instruction.
- It was a more telling and unanswerable form of reproof (Matt 21:28-46).
- It was a more effective means of illustrating truth to those prepared to seek it's meaning (Matt 13:11,18).
- It effectively divided those who did not desire truth, for they would be impatient of seeking it's meaning (Matt 13:13-14).
- It caused the righteous to search, and exciting their curiosity, it led them to understand the other deep features of the Word (Mk 4:13; 1 Cor 4:1).

## The Soils: (Mark above and below Matthew 13)

1. **Wayside (Matthew 13:4, 19):** lit - a travelled way or road way. They hear, but do not take the time to understand. Though made of the same materials as the good ground, it was hard and impenetrable. The challenge is to make our hearts penetrable to the Word of God - Jer 4:3. The “**wicked one**” will quickly catch away the Word of God, so it cannot take root. This represents the flesh thinking in a way that naturally rejects the Word of God (Rom 8:7). This was at work in the Pharisees and leaders of the nation (Lk 11:52; Ezek 34:19).

2. **Stony Places (Matthew 13:5, 20-21):** ie rock covered with a little earth. These hear, and immediately (Gk for 'anon') receive it. This soil has high moisture and therefore the seed germinates and springs up quickly, but the roots cannot go down deeper, and therefore under the tribulation of the hot sun they soon wither and die and bear no fruit. It represents the shallow minded person, whose understanding has no depth, and therefore never develops more than a superficial understanding. (Rom 11:33; 1 Cor 2:10). Their superficial understanding fails to grasp three key facts:
- Suffering must come before the glory (Acts 14:21-22).
  - How God in His wisdom is works with his people (Heb 12:6; Matt 5:5)
  - The need to keep the vision of the Kingdom well in our minds to enable us to see beyond the trials (Heb 12:11-12; Prov 29:18; Phil 3:10-11).
3. **Among Thorns (Matthew 13:7, 22):** No matter what type of soil it is, the presence of thorns chokes it's ability to be fruitful. The thorns are described as:
- The cares of this world which are able to weigh us down and make us unfruitful (Lk 21:34-35).
  - The deceitfulness of riches (1 Tim 6:9; Lk 12:16-21).
  - The lusts of other things (see Mk 4:19; Matt 6:24; 19:22)
- The plants growing in thorny ground did not die, they just became unfruitful. These are people in the ecclesia, who are unfruitful because they fail to understand the snare (Prov 1:17; 7:23) of the allurements of riches and the cares of this life. See Rev 16:15.
4. **Into Good Ground (Matthew 13:8, 23):** This represents those who hear the Word, and understand it as the Word takes deep root, enabling them to withstand the trials of life (Col 2:6-8; Jer 17:7-8) and bring forth fruit according to their ability to the honour and glory of the Sower. See Gal 6:7-10; 5:22-23; Col 1:9-10; Rev 1:3.

### Colour the Key Words:

"Hear" (Yellow) - Matthew 13:9 (2x), 13 (2x), 14, 15 (2x), 16, 17 (3x), 18, 19, 20, 22, 23.

"Understand" (Blue) - Matthew 13 :13, 14, 15, 19, 23

Summary lesson: Proverbs 24:30-34.