

Serving the Lord is a Heart Condition  
Lesson 1  
The Parable of the Sower

## **The Parable of the Sower**

The first three canonical Gospels {meaning authorized; recognized; or accepted, which are} (Mt, Mk, Lk) are generally called 'synoptic,' and their authors 'synoptists,' because they all present the same general view of our Lord's ministry. For the most part they record the same incidents, in the same order, in the same (or closely similar) words, and from the same point of view. —  
Commentary on the Holy Bible, A

### **Matthew 22:36-40**

36 Master, which is the great commandment in the law?

37 Jesus said unto him, **Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.**

38 **This is the first and great commandment.**

39 **And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.**

40 **On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.**

At this time we are going to take a closer look at the Parable of the Sower mainly from Matthew's Gospel, but I will also include a couple of verses from Mark and Luke's Gospel to further shed light upon the meaning of the parable. And thus we will gain a proper understanding of the parable at hand. This is what it means to study the Word of God and to gain doctrinal knowledge and understanding one commandment upon another, one commandment upon another, line upon line, line upon line, here a little and there a little. To further understand this concept refer to Isaiah 28:9-10.

### **Matthew 13:2-23**

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.**

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables... Let me first define to you what a parable is.

The word parable is derived from a Greek word signifying to compare together, and denotes a similitude taken from a natural object to illustrate a spiritual or moral subject. It is a narrative of some fictitious or real event, in order to illustrate more clearly some truth that the speaker wished to communicate. —Barnes' Notes on the New Testament

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

4 **And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:**

5 **Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:**

6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Do you have ears to hear the truth contained within this parable? This is where a wise soul will pray to understand and will ask God to allow his understanding to be fruitful in all things pertaining to the kingdom of God. You will desire truth, understanding of that truth, thus gaining the knowledge contained therein, and finally you will seek the wisdom to properly apply the principles that was contained within the truth that was revealed unto you.

10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

11 He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

But I thought God wanted everyone to be saved?

12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.

Do you understand the concept being relayed here? To you that desires truth for example, more will be given to you. But if you do not have much desire for truth, from you will be taken away even that which you have.

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: {Why Lord?} because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 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:

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.

This is not meaning a healing to your natural body, but rather we gain further understanding of what is meant from Mark 4:12 where it tells us “and their sins should be forgiven them.” The healing spoke of here that the people would receive would be that of their sins being forgiven them.

This is a great example of why when you are studying the Word of God that you need to make a comparative study of what the scriptures say elsewhere. So what we discover from this parable of the sower is that parables were spoken by Jesus because it is fulfilling of prophecy spoken by the Prophet Isaiah of which tells us that this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed.

16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

That means listen up! Take heed to what is about to be spoken as this is the revealing of the truth contained within the parable.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

So again we see that the receiving of the Word of God is a heart condition!! What kind of heart do you have? Is your heart waxed gross? Are your ears dull of hearing? Have you closed your own eyes to the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Because the serving of the Lord is a heart condition!

For those of you on the way side, pray and ask God to give you an understanding of truth and a desire to pursue after righteousness. For it is a promise that if you seek after righteousness you will be filled.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;

Anon meaning quickly or readily. So those on the stony ground hear the Word and quickly receive it with joy. Hallelujah!! Oh, I get it!! I understand!!

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

When it comes to making a stand for the gospel they that are on the stony ground are offended because of the Word. These are they of which will not pick up their crosses, deny themselves, and follow after Christ. But rather are offended because of the Word.

When one finds themselves offended at someone or something, if they do not quickly get a grip on their feelings, this perceived offense will turn into a breeding ground for a root of bitterness to spring up within you. This root of bitterness will poison you with hate!! And this hate will destroy you from within! For those of you who are suffering from this, the answer is to accept what has happened or what the current situation is with mercy and forgiveness to the one who has offended you. This mercy and forgiveness will set you free from the root of bitterness which has enslaved you to the emotion of hate and the desire to seek revenge.

22 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.

In Mark's gospel this verse reads, "4:19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

These are they of which the cares, the anxieties, and the deceitful lure of riches and other lusts choke the Word and they become unfruitful. Their attention is fixed upon their problems and their cravings of worldly pleasures and therefore they become unfruitful or unproductive for the kingdom of God. But what does the scriptures teach us?

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? (Matthew 6:25)

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. (Hebrew 13:5)

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. (Galatians 5:24-25)

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.

In the Gospel of Luke this verse reads “8:15 But that 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.”

Remember, serving the Lord is a heart condition! Those that were upon the good ground were those who had an honest and good heart, who having heard the Word, understood it, and brought forth fruit with patience over time.

What you have just heard is what takes place every time someone hears the Word of God. It will fall upon one of these four types of ground. But who is the wise from among you?

#### **Matthew 7:24-25**

24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

#### **Matthew 12:48-50**

48 But he answered and said unto him that told him, **Who is my mother? and who are my brethren?**

49 And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, **Behold my mother and my brethren!**

50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

### **Matthew 7:21**

21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

### **James 1:22-25**

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

Let us not be forgetful hearers of the Word of God, but let us who are of the household of faith, be doers of the Word.

### **John 15:1-17**

1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

It is of the utmost importance that we as branches bear fruit. If we do not bear fruit we are no longer in the vine and we will be taken away! If you abide in the vine, Jesus Christ, you will not only produce fruit, you will also be purged that you may bring forth even more fruit.

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 13:23) But that 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. (Luke 8:15)

3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

If you are not producing fruit. You need to reconnect with Jesus Christ the vine and find out what ground is the Word of God falling on when you hear it. If you are no longer going to Church or studying the Word of God you will know right away that there is a problem that needs fixed, for we must abide in him or we will not be able to do anything!

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

This fire is Hell fire which will eventually be cast into the Lake of fire! If you do not abide in Christ and produce fruit you will be cast into the Lake of fire on judgment day! **And now also the**

axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. (Luke 3:9)

7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

9 As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.

10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

To abide in Jesus Christ you must keep his commandments even as he kept his Father's commandments! If you do not keep his commandments you are not his disciple and you do not abide in him! If you keep his commandments you will abide in his love if you do not keep his commandments then you do not love him! **If ye love me, keep my commandments. (John 14:15)**

11 These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

You are not the friends of God or of Christ if you do not keep his commandments! For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. (1 John 5:3) Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (1 John 3:16)

15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

17 These things I command you, that ye love one another.

#### **Luke 12:33-34**

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.