

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 3

The Parable Of The Sower (Mt. 13:3-9, 18-23)

Where & When: Along the western shore of the Sea of Galilee, late in 2nd year of public preaching

Occasion Producing The Parable:

- Jesus is just beginning a 2nd tour of Galilee (Lk. 8:1)
- He continues to work miracles that accompany His preaching (Lk. 8:2)
- Earlier that same day...
 - ...The scribes & Pharisees accused Jesus of healing by Beelzebul (Mt. 12:22-29)
 - ...The scribes & Pharisees demanded a "sign" as proof (Mt. 12:38-45)
- Re: this group of 7 parables on the nature of the kingdom of heaven...
 - ...The first 4 are told to the multitudes (Mt. 13:1-35)
 - ...The last 3 were spoken only to the disciples (Mt. 13:36-50)

Questions:

- 1) If the average person were given the opportunity, how might he describe the nature of something as important as the eternal kingdom of God...with powerful language, or with something "mundane?"

- 2) What metaphor did Jesus use in the first parable to describe His kingdom's nature? (cp. Isa. 53:2-3)

- 3) With fields of grain having been sown only a few months earlier, how appropriate would the setting have been for this parable? How "knowledgeable" would the audience be in this area?

- 4) Remembering the culture was without technology, how did any seed get sown?

- 5) What is described first? (v. 4a) What happened to the seed? (v. 4b; Lk. 8:5)

- 6) Describe "wayside soil."

- 7) What is described next? (vv. 5-6) Describe "rocky soil."

- 8) What is described next? (v. 7) Describe "thorny soil."

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 3

- 9) What is described last? (v. 8a) What resulted? (v. 8b)

- 10) What exhortation does Jesus give in v. 9?

- 11) What is the "seed?" (Lk. 8:11; cp. 1 Pet. 1:22-25; Heb. 4:12)

- 12) What do the different types of soil in the parable represent?

- 13) In beginning the parable's explanation, how does Jesus define the "wayside soil?" (vv. 18-19)

- 14) What does even Satan recognize about the power of God's word? (Lk. 8:12)

- 15) What is the devil able to do to the seed that falls on the wayside soil? (Heb. 3:7-13)

- 16) How does Jesus explain the "rocky soil?" (vv. 20-21) Why does seed fail here? (Mk. 4:17; 2 Tim. 3:12; Lk. 9:57-58; 14:25-30)

- 17) The problem was not receptiveness, but what?

- 18) How does Jesus explain the "thorny soil?" (v. 22) Why does seed fail here? (Mk. 4:19; Lk. 8:14) What is the concern? (Mt. 6:25-34; 22:37; Col. 3:5; Rom. 12:2; 1 Tim. 6:10, 17)

- 19) The problem is not depth, but what?

The Parables Of Jesus

Lesson 3

- 20) How does Jesus explain the "good soil?" (v. 23) Why does the seed succeed here? (Lk. 8:15)
[Remember...Jesus was not discussing "good" people already in the kingdom, but "good prospects" for the kingdom's seed]
- 21) Be able to show how the "good soil" is the collective opposite of the other 3.
- wayside soil (*hard, impenetrable*) → good soil (Mk. 4:20; Lk. 8:15) _____
- rocky soil (*shallow, no commitment*) → good soil (Lk. 8:15) _____
- thorny soil (*crowded, divided*) → good soil (Lk. 8:15) _____
- 22) What do you suppose is meant in v. 23b? Consider another parable in your answer... *The Parable Of The Talents* (Mt. 25:14-30) The emphasis is not just on being receptive, but on what?
- 23) What is the obvious question to ask when learning the parable's main lesson?
- 24) This parable only has 3 elements...what are they? Which ones are "constant?" What does that tell us about the importance of the one element that is not constant?