

“HEAR THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER”

Matthew 13:3-9

The Parable of the Sower deserves special attention because the Lord often spoke in parables, and this one holds the key to comprehending the rest. Moreover, it addresses some fundamental aspects of the gospel!

I. “UNDERSTAND ALL THE PARABLES”

A. Mark 4:13

This, the Parable of the Sower, is a key to grasping all of Jesus’ other parables. It is one of only two parables in Scripture with a point-by-point explanation, the other being the Parable of the Tares (Matthew 13:34-30, 36-43).

B. Matthew 13:10-17, 34-35

Jesus spoke in a way that would not be immediately clear to all who heard, but could be comprehended by those who cared enough to approach the matter with spiritual insight.

1. Matthew 13:31-32, 33, 44, 47-52

The parables of the Mustard Seed, the Leaven, the Hidden Treasure, and the Dragnet are not provided with analysis. They are just there to be understood or not.

2. Matthew 16:5-12

We need to be shrewd enough to comprehend allegory when it is presented, without expecting a statement that it is figurative, rather than literal.

II. “HE HIMSELF DOES NOT KNOW HOW”

A. Mark 4:3

I’m not much of a farmer – just a Dad to six 4H kids raising hogs and a Husband to a crazy chicken lady. I know next to nothing about raising crops.

Even so, I'm fairly confident that the usual method involves tilling the soil, planting the seed **in** the ground – not on top of it – fertilizing it, and watering it. Just scattering seed so that it lands on various types of soil seems imprecise and potentially wasteful.

1. **John 12:24**

The seed usually needs to be buried in the ground!

2. **Acts 17:17**

Unlike planting crops, though, we must not be choosy when spreading the gospel. We need to share the word with whomever we can, wherever we can, whenever we can.

B. **Mark 4:26-29**

The man who scatters seed does not know how the seed should sprout and grow. He does not need to. His job is to sow, not to know the way it grows. Despite this, many experts arise, presenting seminars and such as to how to more effectively evangelize. Spreading the gospel is all there is to it. No tricks, no schemes, no specialization. Just preach!

III. **“THE SEED IS THE WORD OF GOD”**

A. **Luke 8:11**

Only Scripture can bear fruit that God is pleased with.

B. **2nd Timothy 3:14-4:5**

Everything else is a distraction.

IV. **“THEN THE DEVIL COMES”**

A. **Luke 8:12; Matthew 13:19**

If hearing doesn't produce faith, then the devil is at work on that soul.

B. **Hebrews 4:2**

The word of God is meant to be profitable, but it does not profit those who decline to accept it.

V. **“NO ROOT”**

A. **Luke 8:13-14**

Despite Calvinistic claims, believers can be lost. Some will stray soon after receiving the gospel, and some later.

B. **Hebrews 10:26-31; 2nd Peter 2:20-22**

The Christian who returns to worldliness after submitting to Christ does not simply revert to a lost condition, but digresses to a “worse” state than before.

C. **Colossians 2:6-7**

Getting rooted and grounded is essential.

VI. **“SOME A HUNDREDFOLD, SOME SIXTY, SOME THIRTY”**

A. **Matthew 13:8, 23**

Even when fruitful, results will vary. We cannot expect overwhelming success whenever and wherever we scatter the seed.

B. **Acts 2:41**

On one occasion, 3,000 people were saved in a day. We thrill to read it! And we long to duplicate it! But this only ever happened once that we know of.

C. **Acts 16:15**

For more often in inspiration, we find households turning to the Lord together.

D. **Acts 8:38**

Less frequently in Scripture, we read of one individual at a time being saved. This appears to be the most common occurrence at present. We just want to bear fruit and cannot be held responsible for how much there is.