

**Maranatha Fellowship CRC**  
Farmington, NM 87401

Sunday, June 23, 2024, 10:00 AM

**Message:** The Parable of the Sower/Soils

**Scriptures:** Matthew 13:1-23

**Brief Preview:** The Old Testament prophets predicted and longed for the coming of the Anointed One, who would enter history to bring redemption and deliverance. Matthew provides the essential bridge between the Old and New Testaments. Matthew documents Jesus Christ's claim to be Messiah through a carefully selected series of Old Testament quotations. Jesus possesses all the credentials of the Messiah. He ministers in the predicted pattern of Messiah preaches messages only the Messiah could preach, and finally dies the death only Messiah could die.

In this sermon, the parable of the Sower will be discussed, which comes under the division of the progressive rejection of the Messiah as the King. Jesus continues to teach the crowds and the disciples. The parable of the soil is one of the discourses of the Messiah. We see that the disciples ask why Jesus speaks in the parable (13:10); he clarifies (13:18-23). Because of increasing opposition, Jesus spends proportionately more time with His disciples as He prepares them for His coming death and departure. In this parable, the parable of soils, Jesus speaks to the crowd and indicates the consequence of rejection (13:12-15) and blessings to the disciples, who see and hear (13:8, 11, 17, and 23).

**Outline:**

- I. Introduction
  - A. The parable of the Sower/Soils
 

**Illus.:** Two-phone Joe
  - B. Matthew Presents the Father Revealed in the Son and Jesus' Mother and Brothers
 

11:25-27, Matthew remembers what Jesus said, "I praise you, Father Lord of heaven and earth, because..."

12:46-48, "...Who is my mother, and who are my brothers? For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother, sister, and mother."
- II. Jesus speaks to the crowd in the parable
  - A. "A farmer went out to sow his seed."
    - i. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up (v.4)
    - ii. Some fell on rocky places, where they didn't have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow (v.6)
    - iii. Other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants (v.7)
    - iv. Other seeds fell on the good soil, where he produced a crop – a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears let them hear (v.8-9)
  - B. Jesus gives options to the crowd and reasons to the disciples the purpose of speaking in the parable when they ask him a question.
    - i. The knowledge of the kingdom of heaven has been given to them, not to the crowd (v.11)
    - ii. The consequences of receiving and rejecting (v. 12)
    - iii. Some practical Implications
- III. Types of Hearts and the Clarification of the Parable of the Soils
  - A. The Rejecting Hearts: The Hard-hearted crowd (13:14-15; 19), The Shallow Hearts (13:20-21), and The Thorny Hearts (13:22)
  - B. The Explanations of the Rejecting Hearts and the Receptive Hearts (13:23)
  - C. God is Sovereign (God knows who rejects and who responds) and the Blessed Disciples (13:16-17; 23)

IV. Conclusion:

A. The use of parables by Jesus

- i. The parable tested the heart of the believers
- ii. The parable gave instructions to those who were listening
- iii. Prayer for the Community is so important to the Christian Walk with God

B. Some Practical Implications

- i. Be willing to adopt balanced thinking and living.
- ii. Emphasizing only the truth is insufficient. Pay attention to 'the act of righteousness,' especially doing it in secret.
- iii. God's sovereignty and human responsibility require a careful balance.

**Questions and Answers** (Refer to Matthew 13:1-23, NIV for answers)

1. The same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gather around him that A. He got into a boat and sat in it B. while all the people stood on the shore C. Both D. None
2. Then he told many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell among the path, and the birds came and ate it up. What's the explanation for this? (13:4 and 19) A. When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. B. This is the seed sown along the path C. Hard heart C. All D. None
3. Some (seeds) fell on rocky places where they did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no roots. What's the explanation Jesus gave for this? (13:5-6, 20-21). A. The seed falling on the rocky ground refers to someone who hears the Word and at once receives it with joy. B. But since they have no roots, they last only a short time. C. When trouble or persecution comes because of the Word, they quickly fall away. D. Shallow heart E. All of the above D. None
4. Some (seeds) other seeds fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants (13: 7 and 22). What explanation did Jesus give for this one? A. The seeds falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the Word, making it unfruitful. B. Thorny heart C. All of the above D. None
5. Still, other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown. (13:8, 23) What's the explanation Jesus gave for this? A. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the Word and understands it. C. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty, or thirty times what was sown. D. Receptive hearts E. All of the above
6. Who was parallel with the prophets and the righteous people from Isaiah's days and Jesus' days? (13:15-17). A. The crowds (the calloused heart people) B. Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand C. The disciples D. Blessed are the disciples/ eyes because they see, and their ears because they hear E. All of the above F. None of the above
7. According to Jesus, what are the consequences of hearing the Word and not hearing the Word? (13: 9 and 11) A. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. B. Whoever does not have, even what they have, will be taken from them. C. Both D. None of them
8. What's the take-home lesson in prayers you learned today? A. Don't be like the calloused heart people of Isaiah's Days and the crowds who rejected Jesus, the Messiah B. Whoever has ears, let them hear what Jesus' Word C. It's essential to pay attention to the parable of the sower/soil because it instructs those who are listening. D. Like the disciples of Jesus, we may not be perfect in understanding. However, they did possess the potential and desire to progress. So do we, because we are blessed disciples of Christ as well. We need to be patient. E. We need to know that emphasizing the truth and not ignoring the 'act of righteousness,' especially doing it in secret, is important F. We need to think sensibly that God's sovereignty and human responsibility should go hand in hand. It requires a careful balance. G. Matt. 5:16 and Matt. 6:1! H. All apply to us. Thanks be to God.