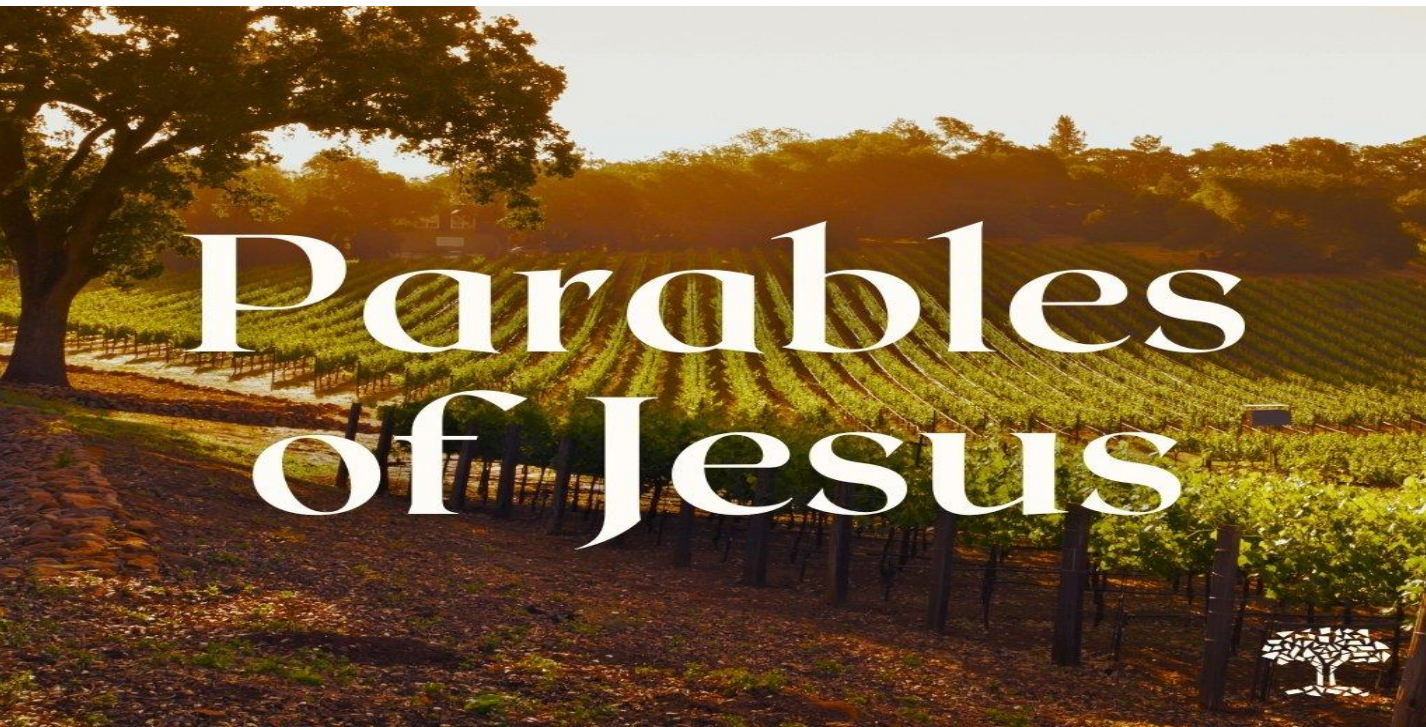


The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23



Matthew 13 **The Seven Parables** **of the Kingdom**



Matthew 13:1-23 *The Parable of the Sower*

Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 *The Parable of the Weeds*

Matthew 13:31-32 *The Parable of the Mustard Seed*

Matthew 13:33 *The Parable of the Yeast*

Matthew 13:44-45 *Parable of the Treasure & the Pearl*

Matthew 13:47-52 *Parable of the Net*

Matthew 13:1-23

The Parable of the Sower

- The Sower - Jesus
- The Seed - Word
- The Soil – People’s Heart

***How the kingdom
comes and how to
receive it?***



Jesus teaches in parables

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ² Such large crowds gathered round him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³ Then he told them many things in parables,

Facing Mission Conflict and Rebellion

From synagogue to seashore

From teachers to common people

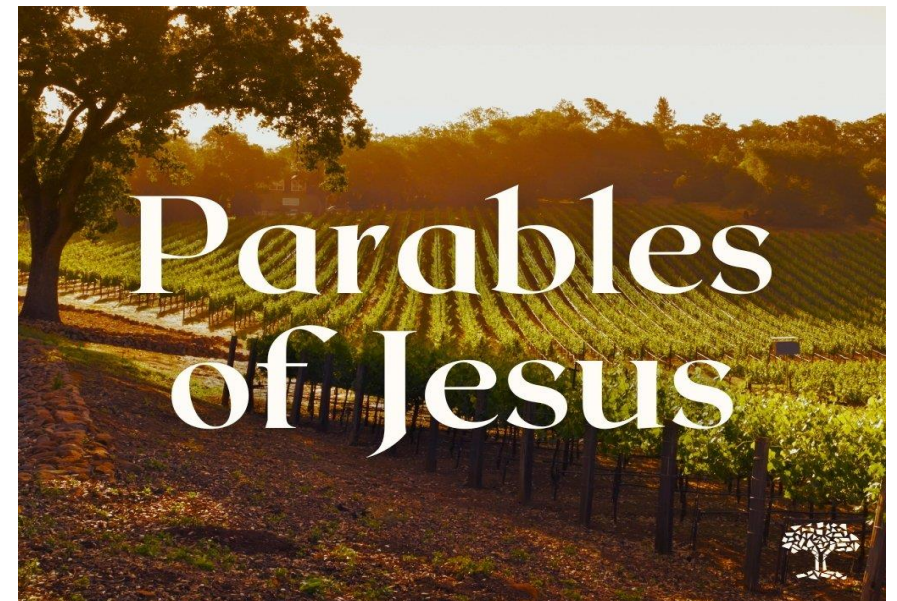


What is a parable?

- Hebrew a *'mashal'*, *'riddle'*.
- Greek a *'parabole'*, *'comparison'*,
literally 'a throwing together',
maybe for similarity, contrast, sheer surprise.

Comparison of two subjects for the purpose of teaching

From natural to heavenly truth,
From visible to invisible



A brilliant instrument like a double-edged sword with enormous advantages

Parable spurs people towards decision

It causes them to reflect, think of how they live, and come to their conviction and decision.

Professor C. F. D. Moule,

*“You can’t teach by spoon feeding.
You must let people puzzle it out for themselves.”*



But why Jesus uses parables?

To reveal kingdom truth to the disciples

¹¹ He replied, 'Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹² Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance...

Kingdom's truth is a mystery

*Given only to the disciples
through revelation*



**To conceal truth to those
with unbelief hardened heart**

***¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:
'Though seeing, they do not see; though
hearing, they do not hear or understand.***



**They were like their ancestors
Prophesized in Isaiah 6:9-10**

***¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:
"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.***

The Exile Generations



Their hearts were hardened with unbelief

¹⁵ For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Jesus' heart is still for them even now!

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

**If only they were to hear and believe,
they would be saved!**



The Disciples are the Blessed Ones!

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

¹⁷ For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

Even the righteous and prophets did not get it.

But will the disciples hear and understand the parables?



The Parable of the Sower

A farmer went out to sow his seeds...

The method of sowing is
broadcasting the words

*The kingdom of God comes to us
in his word planted in our hearts*

The Heart of the Sower

Extravagant Sowing!

Seemingly wasteful!



4 types of soils with 4 outcomes:

- ***The Path***

Never grow. Eaten by birds

- ***Rocky ground***

Grow but die soon from scorching sun

- ***Among thorns***

Grow but die overtaken by thorns

- ***Good soil***

Grow and multiply



Only one out of four bears fruits that last

Jesus explains the meaning

Four types of soils and its outcomes:

- ***The Path:*** Never take root – no fruit
- ***Rocky ground:*** Shallow root – fruit don't last
- ***Among thorns:*** Entangled root – fruit don't last
- ***Good soil:*** Deep root – good fruits that last



Problems of the Hearts

Four Soils are Four Conditions of Hearts

- **Path** - *Hardened Heart*
- **Rock** - *Non-committal Heart*
- **Thorns** - *Distracted Heart*
- **Good Soil** - *Good Heart*



The Path – Never take root

19 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 heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

Hardened Heart

No Understanding

Ever hearing, never understanding.

Deceived by enemies



Rocky Ground - Shallow root

20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

**Non-committal Heart
Flaw Understanding**

***Submission to the Lordship
of Christ is conditional***



The Parable of the Sower by James Tissot

Among thorns - Entangled root

22 The seed 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.

Distracted Heart
Poor Understanding
Worldly, Doubled-minded



Good soil – Deep root

²³ But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.'

Good Heart
Good Understanding
*Hungry, open, humble,
teachable, and mouldable*



Four Soils and Four Conditions of the Hearts

- ***Hardened Heart***
Deceived and confused by enemies
- ***Non-committal Heart***
Not committed to follow Jesus
- ***Distracted Heart***
Worldly, Doubled-minded
- ***Good Heart***
*Hungry, open, humble,
teachable, and mouldable*



**How is Your Heart and
Understanding of the Kingdom of God?**

Listen with the Good Heart

Receive it with Understanding

*Live the single-focused life of
following Jesus and bear fruit*



**DARE TO BE A
DISCIPLE**



**We have received
great blessing of
new treasure of the
kingdom of God**

Matthew 13:52

He said to them, Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.



**GO share the treasure
of the kingdom of God**

Be a Generous Sower!

*Sow the seeds
extravagantly!*

*He promised a
bountiful harvest!*



**Go Mission
with God**