

Intro to Parables: The Four Fields

Matthew 13:1-23

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around 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, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” 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. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

- Matthew 13:1-13

Matthew 13:1-23

- A brief intro to Parables (how they work)
- vss. 10-17: Jesus explains his tactic
- vss. 1-9, 18-23: The Parable Explained

Definition: Parable

“A parable is a story taken from real life from which a spiritual truth is drawn.”

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15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hear and turn, and I would heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. 17 For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

- Matthew 13:10-17

When the great crowd heard all that he was doing, they came to him. 9 And he told his disciples to have a boat ready for him because of the crowd, lest they crush him, 10 for he had healed many, so that all who had diseases pressed around him to touch him.

- Mark 3:8-10

13 This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
14 Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: “ “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.”
15 For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hear and turn, and I would heal them.’ - Matthew 13:13-15

After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.

— John 6:66

10 And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. 11 And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables,

- Mark 3:10-11

The parables have a twofold purpose:

- They hide the truth from the self-righteous and self-reliant and sensationalist thrill-seekers.
- They reveal the truth to those who are eager to hear and listen with childlike faith.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so father, for so it seemed good in your sight.

- Matt. 11:25-26

What is the condition of your heart this morning?

“Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? - Mark 4:13

18 Take care then how you hear, for to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he thinks that he has will be taken away.” - Luke 8:18

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

-Matthew 13:18-23

The Parable Explained

- The **sower** is anyone who proclaims the word. . . . this morning I am the sowing word of God.
- The **seed** is the “word of the kingdom”. . . . specifically the word is the Gospel message.

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- The **seed** is the “word of the kingdom”. . . . specifically the word is the Gospel message.
- The different **soils** depict the different heart conditions of those hearing the word.

The Four Soils

- There is hard ground, the pathway = Hard Heart

The Four Soils

- Hard ground, the pathway = Hard Heart
- Rocky ground = Shallow Heart

The Four Soils

- Hard ground, the pathway = Hard Heart
- Rocky ground = Shallow Heart
- Thorns = Divided Heart

The Four Soils

- Hard ground, the pathway = Hard Heart
- Rocky ground = Shallow Heart
- Thorny Ground = Divided Heart
- Fertile ground = Receptive Heart