



Kingdom Parables



Matthew 13

Session 01

Kingdom Parables

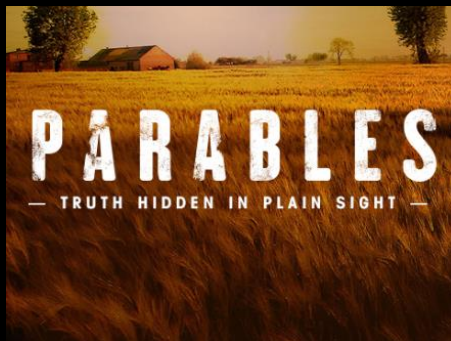
Matthew 13

23 May 2015

Philip Giorgio

Men of Encouragement

SPEAKING:MOE:Kingdom Parables-01





Study Outline

Study Outline - Sections

■ Kingdom Parables: Matthew 13

- Session 01: First Parable
- Session 02: Next Six Parables





Session 1 Outline

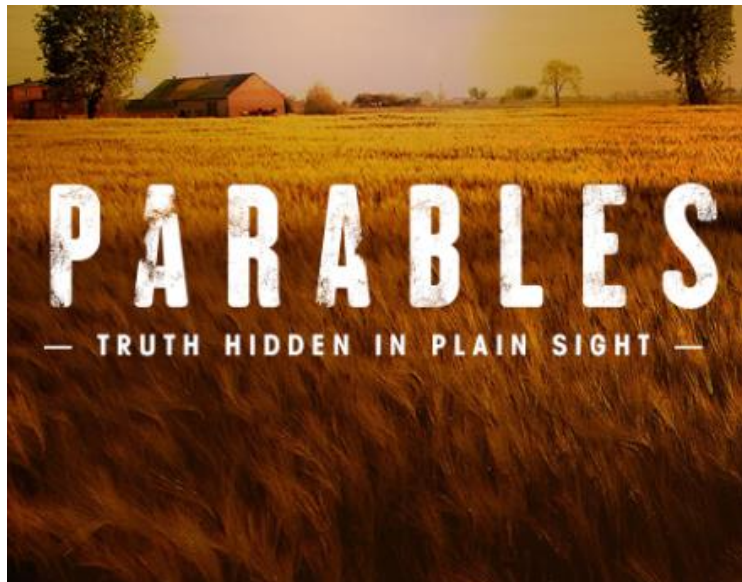
Session 1 - Outline

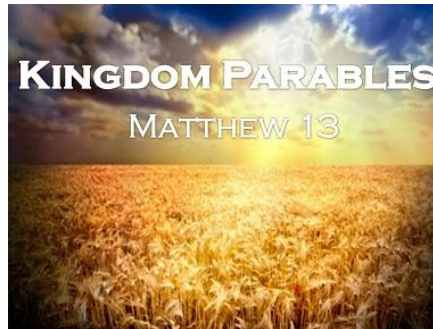
■ Kingdom Parables: Matthew 13

- Session 1: First Parable

- ✓ **STRUCTURE**

- » Kingdom Parables *Overview*
 - » Purpose of Parables *Why Parables?*
 - » **1**: Sower and Four Soils *Parable and Explanation*





Kingdom Parables

Session 1 Structure

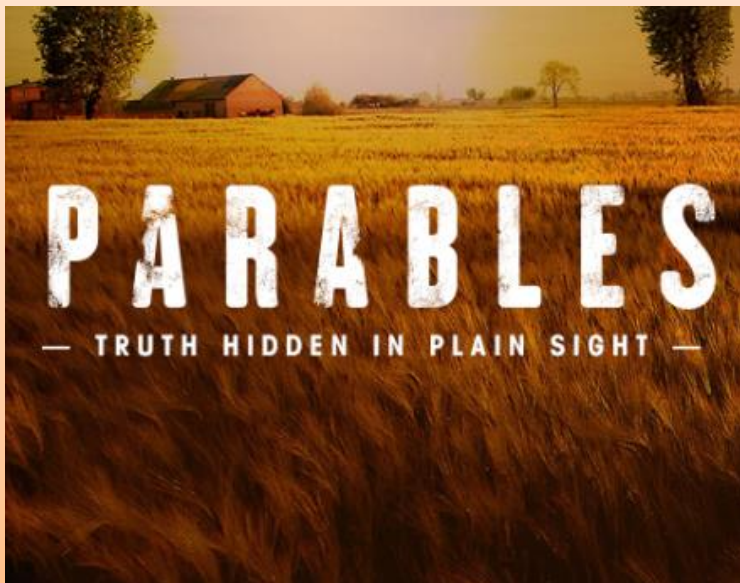
Session 1 - Outline

■ Kingdom Parables: Matthew 13

• Session 1: First Parable

✓ **STRUCTURE**

- ➔ » Kingdom Parables *Overview*
- » Purpose of Parables *Why Parables?*
- » **1**: Sower and Four Soils *Parable and Explanation*



Kingdom Parables Overview - OBSERVATIONS

• Overview

- There are 7 Kingdom parables given by Jesus Christ in Matthew 13
- Some of these parables are also given in the Gospels of Mark and Luke

PARABLE	EXPOSITION	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
SOWER AND FOUR SOILS	PARABLE	13:3-9	4:1-9	8:4-8
	EXPLANATION	13:18-23	4:12-20	8:11-15
TARES AND WHEAT	PARABLE	13:24-30	4:26-29	---
	EXPLANATION	13:36-43	---	---
MUSTARD SEED	PARABLE	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
WOMAN AND LEAVEN	PARABLE	13:33	---	13:20-21
TREASURE IN THE FIELD	PARABLE	13:44	---	---
PEARL OF GREAT PRICE	PARABLE	13:45-46	---	---
DRAGNET	PARABLE	13:47-48	---	---
	EXPLANATION	13:49-50	---	---



Session 01

Session 02

Kingdom Parables Overview - OBSERVATIONS

• Overview

• What is a Parable?

- "The Greek *parabole* is wider than our English 'parable'
 - Includes proverbs, riddles, wise sayings and parables.
- "It had a double advantage for the hearers:
 - First, relates to memory: we remember stories.
 - Second, relates to the mind: studying the meaning of what is heard." (Poole)
- Parables generally teach one Main Point or Principle.
 - We can get into trouble by expecting that they be intricate systems of theology, with the smallest detail revealing hidden truths.
 - "A parable is not an allegory; an allegory is a story in which every possible detail has an inner meaning; but an allegory has to be read and studied; a parable is heard. [Example - "*Pilgrim's Progress*" is an allegory]
 - We must be very careful not to make allegories of the parables." (Barclay)



Parables have been called "earthly stories with a heavenly meaning."

Kingdom Parables Overview - OBSERVATIONS

• Overview ... Kingdom

- Matthew use the phrase - "*the Kingdom of Heaven*"
- Mark and Luke use the phrase - "*the Kingdom of God*"
- **Why do you think that is?**
 - Matthew was written from a Jewish perspective
 - Matthew's Gospel presents Jesus as the Messiah
 - Jewish perspective - do not use the name of God



GOD IS A FOUR-LETTER WORD!

Tetragrammaton : the four Hebrew letters usually transliterated **YHWH** or **JHVH** that form a biblical proper name of God ... **YAHWEH** of **JEHOVAH**

יהוה

[Hei]
H

[Vav]
W

[Hei]
H

[Yod]
Y

tetragrammaton

noun | tet-ra-gram-ma-ton
| \te-trə-'gra-mə-,tān\



יהוה

Kingdom Parables Overview - OBSERVATIONS

• Overview

- Setting for **Matthew 13**
- In **Chapter 12** ...

- Scribes and Pharisees ask for a sign... Jesus replies
 - Evil and adulterous generations seeks after signs
 - No sign except the sign of Jonah - *3 days and nights*
- Jesus tells of the return of the unclean spirit
 - Seven times worse than the first
- Jesus's Mother and Brothers send for Him
 - Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven
 - Is my brother sister and mother

- **Chapter 13** starts out with ...

13 On the same day **Jesus** went out of the house and **sat** by the sea. ²And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a **boat** and **sat**; and the whole **multitude stood** on the shore. --- **Matthew 13:1-2 ... NKJV**



In view of the heavy crowds, Jesus entered into a boat and pushed out slightly from the shore, a technique that had enabled him to speak to large crowds at other times (**Luke 5:3**).

Many natural acoustic settings existed in Galilee, including a cove near Capernaum, that would enable thousands to hear the voice of someone properly positioned.

(Crisler 1976:134-37)

Session 1 - Outline

■ Kingdom Parables: Matthew 13

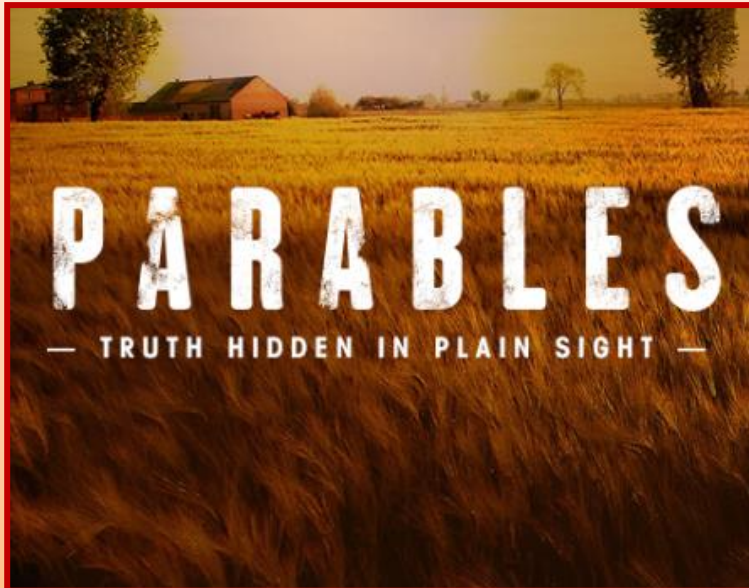
• Session 1: First Parable

✓ **STRUCTURE**

» Kingdom Parables *Overview*

➔ » Purpose of Parables *Why Parables?*

» **1**: Sower and Four Soils *Parable and Explanation*



Purpose of Parables - OBSERVATIONS

• Purpose of Parables

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
PURPOSE	13:10-17	4:10-12	8:9-10

• Why do You speak to them in parables?

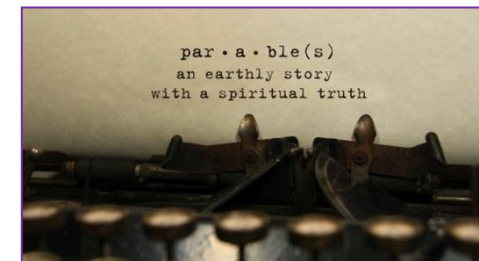
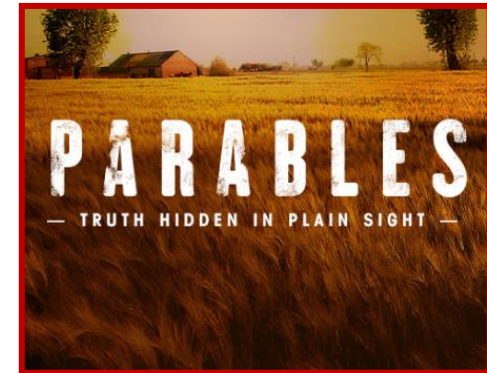
¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. --- Matthew 13:10-12 ... NKJV

- The parables are given to those who are spiritually enlightened so you can know the mysteries of the kingdom. Not for those in the darkness.
- What is Jesus talking about?

- Spiritual insight.

¹⁴ But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

--- 1 Corinthians 2:14 ... NKJV



Purpose of Parables - OBSERVATIONS

• Purpose of Parables

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
PURPOSE	13:10-17	4:10-12	8:9-10

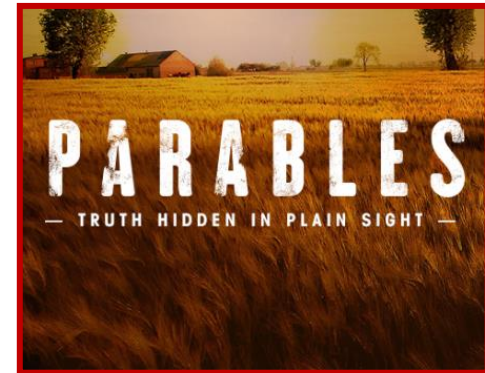
• Why do You speak to them in parables?

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. **14** And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

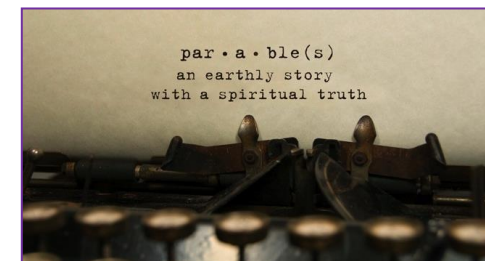
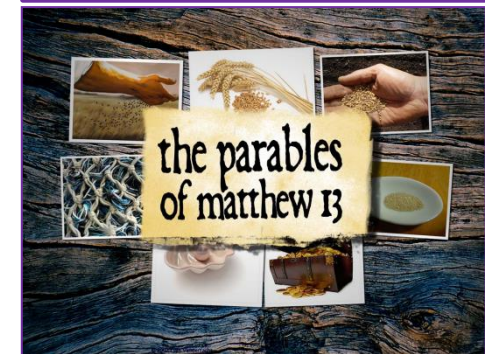
'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;
15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear
with *their* ears,
Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.'

16 But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; **17** for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

--- Matthew 13:13-17 ... NKJV



Isaiah 6:9-10



Purpose of Parables - OBSERVATIONS

• Purpose of Parables

- That it might be fulfilled ...

³⁴ All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, ³⁵ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying:

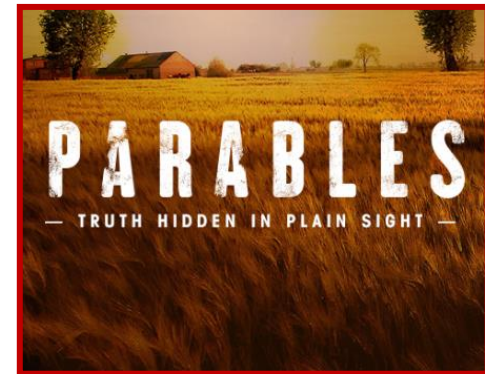
"I will open My mouth in parables;
I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world."

--- Matthew 13:34-35 ... NKJV

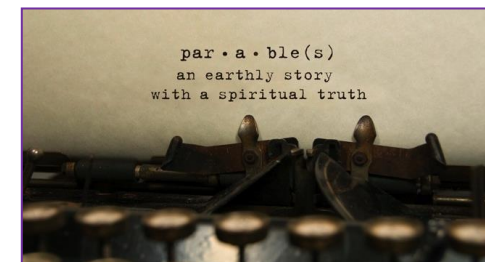
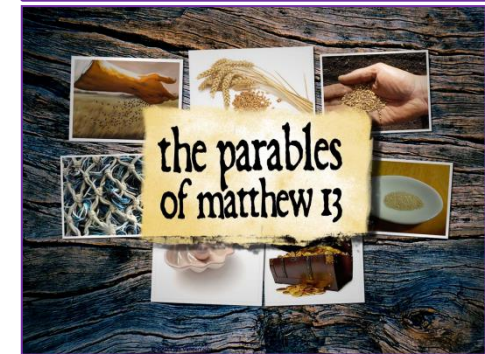
- Jesus only spoke to the multitudes in parables.
- These parables contain truths that are hidden from the Old Testament, otherwise they would not have been "kept hidden from the foundation of the world" ... 7 times

Matthew 13:35; 25:34; Luke 11:50; Hebrews 4:3; 9:26;
Revelation 13:8; 17:8

- These things that the Lord is talking about in Matthew 13 are first time occasions, not found overtly in other Old Testament books.



Psalm 78:2



Purpose of Parables - OBSERVATIONS

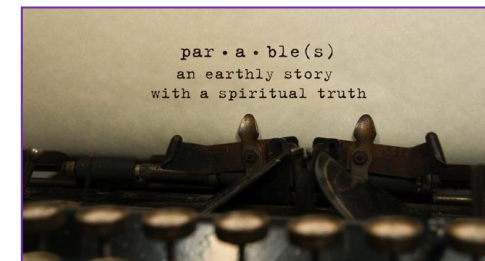
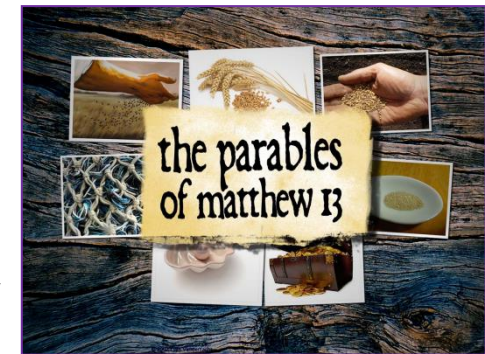
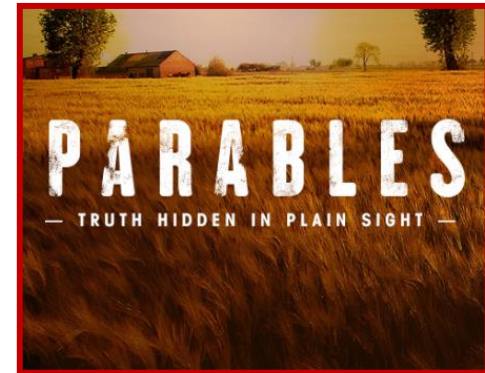
- Hidden Secret

- What is the Mystery of Christ?

⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets: ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,

--- Ephesians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

- The Church: The Age of the Fullness of the Gentiles
 - The Mystery is not just that Gentiles will be converted
 - But that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs and of the same body and partakers of His promise in Christ Jesus by the gospel.



Session 1 - Outline

■ Kingdom Parables: Matthew 13

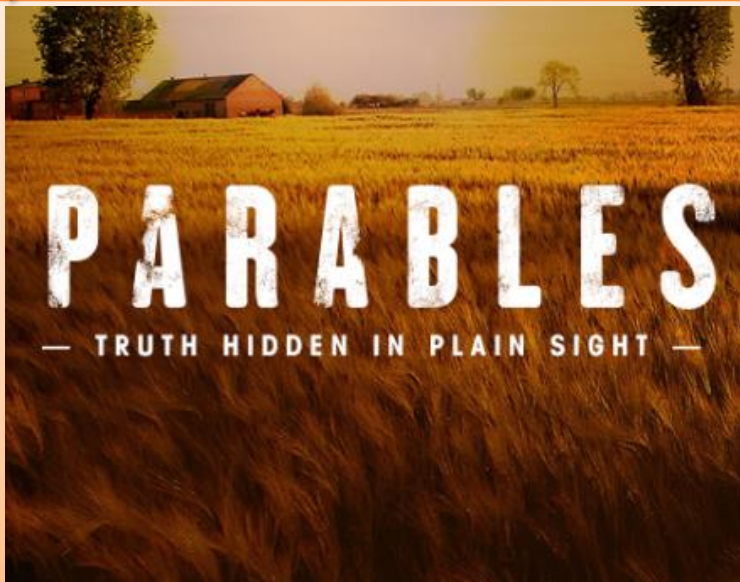
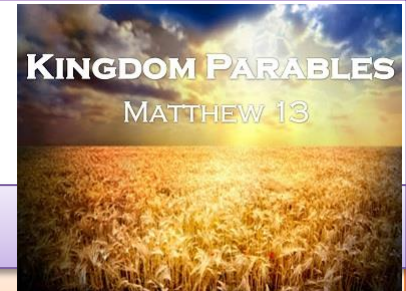
• Session 1: First Parable

✓ STRUCTURE

» Kingdom Parables *Overview*

» Purpose of Parables *Why Parables?*

➔ » **1: Sower and Four Soils** *Parable and Explanation*



Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

• Parable

- Matthew, Mark & Luke
- Explanation by Christ - Matthew, Mark & Luke
- A simple story about a farmer and sowing seeds

SOWER	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE
PARABLE	13:3-9	4:1-9	8:4-8
EXPLANATION	13:18-23	4:12-20	8:11-15



THE SOWER AND THE FOUR SOILS PARABLE

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

--- Matthew 13:3-9 ... NKJV



Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

- A sower went out to sow
 - Jesus spoke according to the agricultural customs of His day - people could relate to the topic.
 - In those days, seed was scattered first
 - Then it was plowed into the ground.

SOME SEED FELL ... [FOUR DIFFERENT TYPES OF SOIL]

By the Wayside	The path where people walked and nothing could grow because the ground was too hard.
On Stony Places	Where the soil was thin, lying upon a rocky shelf. On this ground the seed springs up quickly because of the warmth of the soil, but the seed is unable to take root because of the rocky shelf.
Among Thorns	Soil that is fertile - perhaps too fertile, because thorns grow there as well as grain.
On Good Ground	Soil that is both fertile and weed-free. A good, productive crop grows in the good ground.

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, **a sower went out to sow**. ⁴ And as he sowed, **some seed fell by the wayside**; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell **on stony places**, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell **among thorns**, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell **on good ground** and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

--- Matthew 13:3-9 ... NKJV

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

- A sower went out to sow

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE SEED?

By the Wayside

Birds came and devoured the seed.

On Stony Places

Seed immediately sprang up.
When sun was up the sprouted seed was scorched and withered away.

Among Thorns

Thorns sprang up and choked sprouted seed.

On Good Ground

Sprouted seed yielded a crop.
Some yielded **100**-fold, some **60**-fold, some **30**-fold.

Shortest to Longest Time to Result!
[- Top to Bottom -]

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, **a sower went out to sow**. ⁴ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell **by the wayside**; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell **on stony places**, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell **among thorns**, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell **on good ground** and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

--- Matthew 13:3-9 ... NKJV

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

- He who has ears to hear, let him hear!
 - This was not a call for all to listen.
 - Rather, it was a call for those who were spiritually sensitive to take special note.
 - Reminiscent of the call line from Jesus' Epistles to the Seven churches in Asia Minor ([Revelation 2 & 3](#))

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ **He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

--- Matthew 13: 3-9 ... NKJV

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

THE SOWER AND THE FOUR SOILS PARABLE -- CHRIST EXPLAINS --

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: **19** When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. **20** But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. **22** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. **23** But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

--- Matthew 13:18-23 ... NKJV



Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

• SOIL #1: Wayside

- As the birds devoured the seed on the wayside ([Matthew 13:4](#)), so some receive the word with hardened hearts and the wicked one quickly snatches away the sown word.
- **Who are the Birds? ... Verse 19**
 - The wicked one takes away the seed;
 - Birds are bad in parables.
- **When does the wicked one come?**
 - Only after one hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand.
- The word has no effect because it never penetrates and is quickly taken away.
 - The **wayside soil** represents those who never really hear the word with understanding. The Word of God must be understood before it can truly bear fruit. One of Satan's chief works is to keep men in darkness regarding their understanding of the gospel ([2 Corinthians 4:3-4](#)). ←
 - "Satan is always on the watch to hinder the Word He is always afraid to leave the truth even in hard and dry contact with a mind." (Spurgeon)

18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:
19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, **then** the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the **wayside**.

--- [Matthew 13:18-19](#) ... NKJV

³ But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

• SOIL #2: Stony Places

- As seed falling on the thin soil on top of the **stony places** quickly springs up and then quickly withers and dies ([Matthew 13:5-6](#)).
- Some respond to the word with immediate enthusiasm yet soon wither away.
 - This **soil represents** those who receive the word enthusiastically, but their life is short-lived, because they are not willing to endure tribulation or persecution **because of the word**.
 - "I want you clearly to understand that the fault did not lie in the suddenness of their supposed conversion. Many sudden conversions have been among the best that have ever happened." [Spurgeon]
 - The problem was not their sudden growth, but their lack of depth.
 - "Tribulation is a general term for suffering which comes from outside; **persecution** is deliberately inflicted, and usually implies a religious motive. **Stumbles** is literally 'is tripped up'; it is not a gradual loss of interest, but a collapse under pressure." (France)

²⁰ But he who received the seed on **stony places**, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ **yet** he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

--- Matthew 13:20-21 ... NKJV

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

• SOIL #3: Thorns

- As seed falling **among thorns** grew, the stalks of grain were soon choked out ([Matthew 13:7](#))
- Some respond to the Word and grow for a while
- But are choked and stopped in their spiritual growth by competition from unspiritual things.
 - This **soil** represents fertile ground for the Word;
 - But their soil is too fertile, because it also grows all sorts of other things that choke out the Word of God;
 - It is the cares of this world **and** the deceitfulness of riches that choke the word.

²² Now he who received seed among the **thorns** is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world **and** the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

--- [Matthew 13:22](#) ... NKJV

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

• SOIL #4: Good Ground

- As seed falling on **good ground** brings a good crop of grain (Matthew 13:8)
- Some respond rightly to the word and bear fruit.
 - Hear the Word **and** Understand It
 - This **soil** represents those who receive the word
 - And it bears fruit in their **soil**
 - In differing proportions
 - Some Hundredfold
 - Some Sixty
 - Some Thirty
 - Though each has a generous harvest.

²³ But he who received seed on the **good ground** is he who hears the word **and** understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

--- Matthew 13:23 ... NKJV

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

• Parable Key Point(s)

- Like the **wayside**, sometimes we allow the Word no room at all in our lives.
- Like the **stony places**, we sometimes have flashes of enthusiasm in receiving the Word that quickly burn out.
- Like the **soil among thorns**, the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches are constantly threatening to choke out God's Word and our fruitfulness.
- Like the **good ground**, the Word bears fruit in our lives.



We notice that the difference in each category was with the soil itself.

The same seed was cast by the same sower. You could not blame the differences in results on the sower or on the seed, but only on the soil.

Parable #1: Sower and Four Soils - OBSERVATIONS

The parable of the sower compels the listener to ask,

"What kind of soil am I?"

How can I prepare my heart and mind to be the *right* kind of soil?"

This parable invites *action* so that we would receive the Word of God to full benefit.





Kingdom Parables: Matthew 13

Session **2**:
Next Six Parables

[**Matthew 13:24-33, 36-50**]

Next Week's Session

Event Outline - Sessions

■ Kingdom Parables: Matthew 13

- Session 01: First Parable
- Session 02: Next Six Parables



