

**THEME: THE PARABLES OF JESUS**

**TOPIC: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER (The Four Soil)**

**TEXT: MATTHEW 13:3-9, 18-23; MARK 4:3-9; LUKE 8:4-8**

## **INTRODUCTION**

A common description of a parable is that it is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Jesus told many parables (**Mark 4:34**).

The general "theme" of Jesus' parables is to do with "the kingdom of heaven".

Many of the parables start with "**The kingdom of heaven is like....**" as shown in **Matthew 13:24, 31, 33, 44, 45 & 47**. Jesus made reference to "**the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**".

## **I. EXPLANATION OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER BY JESUS CONTD.**

### **F. "THE GOOD GROUND" (The Fourth Soil)...**

1. This soil represents the one who...
  - a. "hears the word and understands it" – **Matthew 13:23a**
  - b. "indeed bears fruit and produces" – **Matthew 13:23b**
  - b. Luke adds that he hears "the word with a noble and good heart", and then "keeps it and bears fruit with patience" – **Luke 8:15**
2. Those with "a noble and good heart", are the ones...
  - a. Who will understand the Word?
  - b. Who will keep it, and with patience produce fruit in their lives!
3. They will be like the Bereans, who were commended for being "Fair-minded", as manifested in the way they:
  - a. "received the word with all readiness"
  - b. "searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so" – **Acts 17:11**
4. Note the importance of "understanding" in relation to "bearing fruit"...
  - a. Jesus made the connection between the two in this parable – **Matthew 13:23**
  - b. Paul connects the two when he writes of the gospel producing fruit among the Colossians "since the day they heard (NASV "understood") the grace of God in truth" – **Colossians 1:5-6**When one "understands", they will more likely "bear fruit"; but the key to understanding is having a "good and noble heart" that is willing to listen and learn!
5. And what kind of "fruit" will one bear? There are different kinds...
  - a. The fruit of winning souls to Christ - **Romans 1:13**
  - b. The fruit of practical holiness - **Romans 6:22**
  - c. The fruit of sharing material things - **Romans 15:27**
  - d. The fruit of the Spirit (i.e., a Christ-like character) – **Galatians 5:22-23**
  - e. The fruit of good works – **Colossian 1:10**
  - f. The fruit of praise & thanksgiving – **Hebrews 13:15**
6. An important observation is that not all will bear the same amount...
  - a. "some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty" – **Matthew 13:23**
  - b. As illustrated in The Parable of the Talents, some may be given more according to their ability to use what God has given them - **Matthew 25:14-15**
  - c. Whatever our ability, we should exercise it accordingly – **1 Peter 4:10-11**

## **II. APPLICATION OF THE PARABLE**

### **A. ARE YOU LIKE "THE WAYSIDE"?**

1. If you have heard the gospel of Christ and His kingdom, but are not yet a Christian...

2. You may be in the process of hardening your heart the longer you wait!
3. You are susceptible to Satan's deception in some form, to blind you and not allow the Word of God to have its intended effect!

#### **B. ARE YOU LIKE "THE STONY PLACES"?**

1. If you responded to the gospel at one time, but are not being grounded (growing) in the faith
2. You will likely fall away when persecution or temptation comes your way!

#### **C. ARE YOU LIKE THE SOIL "AMONG THE THORNS"?**

1. If you responded to the gospel at one time, but are becoming too preoccupied with the cares, riches, and pleasures of this world...
2. You will not be able to bear much fruit! – And remember what Jesus said about branches that don't bear fruit! – **John 15:1-6**

#### **D. ARE YOU LIKE "THE GOOD SOIL"?**

1. If you have responded to the gospel, and are bearing fruit.
2. Then you have demonstrated several important things:
  - a. You have a good and noble heart!
  - b. You have come to understand the Word!
  - c. You have been keeping it with patience!
3. And so the Word of God has been able to produce its intended effect in you!

**Q: From the explanation of Jesus, what kind of soil are you?**

#### **CONCLUSION**

When Jesus finished telling His parable of the Sower, He cried out; **"He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" – Matthew 13:9.**

Clearly from the explanation of Jesus Himself, we learn that not all those who have ears to hear, really listen! It is important that we listen well when God's Word is being proclaimed, for that is how faith is obtained – **Romans 10:17.**

How well have YOU listened to this parable of Jesus and His explanation?

- If you are anything other than like **"the good soil"**, you need to repent today!

Brethren, may you truly have a good and noble heart which, hears, examine, understand, and accept the gospel of Christ and the gospel of His kingdom!