
The Parables of Jesus Pt. 1

Ivy Baptist Church Bible Study
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What is a parable? Is it the same or different as a proverb?

- **Parable:** A simple story (usually real or involving real life situations) to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson
- **Proverb:** A short saying that states a general truth or piece of advice
- Jesus used parables for most of His teaching on spiritual matters
- Matthew 13:34: "Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; He did not say anything to them without using a parable"
- Psalm 78:2: I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from old

Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23

- The Parable of the Sower
- A farmer went out to sow his seed(vs. 3)
- Key: Every farmer expects a harvest from planting their seeds. But a farmer also knows not all seeds will yield a harvest
- The farmer's seed fell on 4 different types of "soil"
- There are four different responses to the seeds falling on the four different types of soil
- Whoever has ears, let them hear! (vs. 9)
- Disciples asked Jesus: Why do you speak in parables? (vs. 10)
- Jesus: You already have the secrets to the kingdom of heaven, those who don't know Me don't have them! (vs. 11)
- Key: Only people who have SPIRITUAL insight can understand what I'm saying (vs. 12-17)

This parable is about understanding the KINGDOM of God (Matthew's focus)

- What is a kingdom?
- It is a place where a KING RULES and has AUTHORITY. Jesus is showing us where He wants to RULE in our lives and what hinders Him from doing so!

Jesus explains the parable (vs. 18-23)

- Sower is God (the KING)
- Seed is the Word of God that explains the KINGDOM of God
- Soil is the HEART of mankind. The heart of mankind is what receives (or not) the KINGDOM of God!

1st Soil: “Hardened” (The path)

- They hear the message of the kingdom but don’t understand it. The evil one comes and snatches away what was placed in their heart (vs. 18)
- People with hardened hearts enjoy sin too much to give it to God!

2nd Soil: “Shallow” (Rocky Ground)

- They hear the Word and are glad. But because of no root the joy doesn’t last. And when problems come, they quickly fall away (Vs. 21)
- People with shallow hearts leave God and the church when problems hit! They don’t see the full value of the kingdom!

3rd Soil: “Choked” (Thorns)

- They hear the Word but the worries of life and desire for riches “choke” the Word (Vs. 22)
- People with “choked” hearts are too preoccupied with “life” and/or consumed by “things.” The Word (kingdom) isn’t a priority or consideration

4th Soil: “Receptive” (Good soil)

- They hear the Word and understand it (vs. 23)
- People with “receptive” hearts hear (by faith) and are obedient to the Word. They produce a large crop and the kingdom of God is a priority!

Lessons from the Parable of the Sower:

- 1. Jesus came to establish His kingdom in our HEARTS. Not in the world
- 2. Only ONE type of heart will be willing to receive Jesus and His kingdom, a receptive heart
- 3. The EVIDENCE of FRUIT is the only way we can tell if the seed “took root and grew”
- 4. ONLY CHRIST can “break up” the bad “soil” in our hearts:
- Ezekiel 36:26: “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws”

Conclusion:

- Which heart do you have when it comes to receiving the Word about the Kingdom of God?
- Hardened
- Shallow
- Choked
- Receptive