

FAITH BIBLE FELLOWSHIP of Fairfield Glade

Pastor Dave Evangelista ~ February 19, 2012 ~ Matthew 13:1-9

"The Parable of the Sower"

Our Lord spoke to His constituents in simple terms because many of them were uneducated and knew little about spiritual matters. The term "parable" in its Biblical context can be defined as "a simple story illustrating a moral truth."

Our study today will take us to the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. Matthew writes in verses 1-3: "*That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.*"

Then He told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed." The sower (farmer) represents the Lord Jesus because He sowed the Word and sowed the children of the kingdom (see verses 37-38). The sower also represents all those who sow the Word of God. All who are saved are to sow the Word! If we do, we have this promise from the Lord in Psalm 126:5-6, "Those who sow in tears will reap with songs of joy..."

- As we sow the seed, we must have proper motivation and attitude! We must be diligent, laboring as one who must give an account.
- As we sow, we must be persevering, instant in season and out of season.
- We must be devoted, yielding ourselves heartily, entirely and sincerely to the work.
- The seed is the Word of God (see Luke 8:11). What does His Word do? It brings conviction (see Acts 2:37 & Hebrews 4:12).
- It brings conversion (see 2 Peter 1:4; 1 Peter 1:23; Psalm 19:7).
- The Word of God is also known for its cleansing (see John 15:3 & Psalm 119:4). By the same Word we are

corrected and comforted (see 1 Timothy 3:16 & Romans 15:4).

Now let's look at the different types of soil.

- First we find the wayside or the path (see verse 4). This refers to the hard-hearted, unenlightened hearers. They do not understand. Our Lord interprets this in verse 19. These people have hardened their hearts so often that the seed cannot penetrate, therefore, they cannot understand.
- Satan then takes the seed away. The seed was "on" but not "in" so they remain unsaved.
- Secondly, we have the stony ground hearer, of the shallow hearted (see verses 5-6). Our Lord interprets this kind of hearer in verses 20-21). These people show the green blade of professionalism, but have wrong motives. There is no root of grace! They too are unsaved.
- Thirdly, there are the "thorny hearers." We might also call them the "half-hearted hearers." (See verse 7) "*Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.*" These kinds of people allow the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, the lust for things and the pleasures of this life to choke out the Word. They too are unsaved! Cares, riches, possessions and pleasure all take time and attention and there is none left for God—these things promise happiness, but never bring it! So many more people *could* reach God's heaven if it were not for this deep-seated love for this world which fills the mind with care, deceives the soul and leaves people guilty and lost!
- Finally, the "good ground hearers or the whole hearted hearers" are mentioned (over)

in verse 8. *"Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*

Summing it all up: This hearer understands, receives and keeps the Word; then brings forth fruit. A spirit of believing obedience is also a characteristic of profitable hearing. The Psalmist wrote in *Psalm 119:130*, *"The entrance of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple."* It also has a sanctifying influence on the heart of the believer. Jesus said in *John 17:17*, *"Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth."*

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