

Matthew 13:1-23

The Parable of the Sower

- ◆ 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. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.” The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 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. This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’ But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”
- ◆ Sometimes I’m the path, sometimes I’m the thorny ground, sometimes I’m the shallow ground and sometimes I’m the good ground. When I hear the word and it doesn’t bear fruit in me, I’m either one of the first 3 grounds/soil. When I hear the word and it bears fruit in me, I’m the good ground/soil.
- ◆ Examples: the word says, “a soft response calms down anger” but when someone comes angry at me and I also become angry what ground have we portrayed? The bible says “Do not lie” but when I lie in a situation with the aim to gain favour from the word, what ground have I exhibited? What kind of ground do I chose to be on a daily or situation basis? Let’s chose the good/fruitful ground always.

- ◆ When I don't understand the word when it's preached, I've lost out and I'm like the path – the word had been stolen from me. When I hear the word and receive it with joy but shortly forget it because of troubles and persecution I'm like the rocky ground. When I hear the word but it is choked by the deceitfulness, hardships and worries of life, I'm like the thorny ground. When I hear the word and I apply it in my life and in all situations, it will bear fruit in me and I'm the good ground/soil.
- ◆ The aim is for us to be good soil always – come rain, come thunder. This can be achieved by rooting ourselves in God, studying the word daily and also by the help of the Holy Spirit. It requires a lot of effort and diligence on our behalf to be the good ground, and the yield is worth it.