

Sower, Seed, and Soil 28 Parables of Jesus Series

Bible Sermon Study Notes: Pastor Cary Rodgers, Jr

In Matthew 13 Jesus teaches a multitude of people by the sea gospel truths in a series of very powerful parables.

Mat 13:1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

Mat 13:2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

Mat 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, **Behold, a sower went forth to sow;**

We will look at the first parable in a little bit.... First...

What does the word “parable” mean?

Parable – Symbolic narrative or story by comparing one thing with another to teach a lesson based on reality.

Why did Jesus teach in parables?

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, **Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.**

Mat 13:12 **For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.**

Mat 13:13 **Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.**

Mat 13:14 **And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**

Mat 13:15 **For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.**

Mat 13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

Mat 13:35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Jesus used the nature that He created as illustrations to teach spiritual lessons that will lead all people to everlasting life. He compared the natural things that common people were familiar with to unveil truth to the minds of the people. All of Jesus parables had convicting power.

Sin masked the truth and cover it with lies. Jesus came to as a light in a sin filled place of darkness to reveal truth and expose Satan's lies and to destroy all the works of the Devil.

Light of the World

(Joh 8:12) Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, **I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

(Joh 12:46) **I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.**

What is the first parable that Jesus taught by the seaside?

Mat 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

Mat 13:4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

Mat 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

Mat 13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Mat 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

Mat 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

What are the three key components to this first parable? (Three S's)

- 1) Seed
- 2) Sower
- 3) Soil

What are the eternal truths and lessons that Jesus is teaching from the parable of the seed, sower, and soil?

Matthew 13:18 - 23 and Luke 8:11 - 15 accounts

In order to get a deep and rich understanding of the seed, sower, and soil parable we need to explore principles of each component.

SEED

When were seeds created?

3rd Day of Creation:

Gen 1:11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb (plant) yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

Gen 1:12 And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

God created the plants, trees, and flowers with seeds. From the very beginning God created laws with in seeds that are within harmony with the creation and purpose of God.

What are the laws that govern every seed that we learn from creation and the parable of the seed, sower, and the soil?

Laws of seeds

- 1) EVERY plant, tree, and flower produces seed (or spores) that has the power to duplicate and multiply itself
- 2) Seeds can ONLY grow after the kind of plant, tree, or flower it came from. In other words, a corn seed and only produce corn. You can't get okra from a bean seed.
- 3) In order for seeds to grow into a full grown fruit bearing plant it must be planted in good soil with the proper air, temperature, moisture and nutrients.

The POWER of ONE seed!

JUST one seed has a lot of power! One apple seed has the power to produce an orchid full of delicious apples. One tiny okra seed has the power to produce a field of okra. One kernel of corn has the power to produce

several acres of corn!

Let's look at the power of ONE SEED (SEED anatomy)

Seeds are like baby plants inside a little house waiting to spring fourth into action! They are actually “sleep” or dormant until they are placed in an environment to grow.

Did you know that seeds only need warmth, water, and air to start its growth without soil? Seeds will not use the nutrients found in soil for a few days or weeks, because the seed itself has everything it needs to BEGIN growing. Seeds remains dormant for years until it is placed in an environment with warmth, water, and air. Scientist have found bean seeds buried in a jar in an Egyptian king's tomb, King Tut, that was over 3000 years old! They planted some of seeds and they produced plants.

Every seed has a baby plant waiting to grow into action. It is known as an **embryo**. What protects the baby plant inside in a variety of seeds is an outer shell or coat know as the **testa**.

When the outer shell of the seed is soaked in water from rain, etc it comes of and the sleep embryo (baby plant) inside the seed get the water and begin to “awake. This process is known as germination.

Now let's go back to the parable of the seed, sower, and the soil.

What does the seed represent?

Luk 8:11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the **word of God**.

What POWER and fruit producing potential is in the seed, the Word of God?

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick (Greek=living), and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

The Word of God is living power that exposes the motives of our heart and thoughts.

Joh 6:63 (Jesus says) **It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

Joh 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that **heareth my word, and believeth on him** that sent me, hath **everlasting life**, and shall not come into condemnation; but is **passed from death unto life.**

“In every command and in every promise of the word of God is the power, the very life of God, by which the command may be fulfilled and the promise realized. He who by faith receives the word is receiving the very life and character of God.” {COL 38.1}

Pro 30:5 **Every word of God is pure:** he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

Joh 17:17 **Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.**

The word of God is truth that has the power to make you pure and holy!

Rom 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

FAITH in GOD ONLY comes by “hearing” instruction – preaching FROM the WORD OF GOD – TRUTH! But we all must understand God's word and keep it.

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Luk 11:28 But he said, **Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.**

The power and fruit of God's word WILL NOT produce fruit until you study it, understand it, and keep it!

Like food for the body, EVERY WORD of GOD, the seed, MUST be eaten EVERYDAY!

What did Jesus tell the Tempter, Satan in the wilderness of temptation?

Luk 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**

The fruit of studying, understanding, and applying the WORD of God in you life the character of God!

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

Gal 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

What is the Law of Sowing and Reaping?

An old woman in her nineties told me this years ago, "You can't plant beans and expect corn!" This is totally impossible. Remember seed only produce after its own kind – that's the LAW! The same is true spiritually! Let take a few minutes and learn.

Gal 6:7 **Be not deceived;** God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

Gal 6:8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap **corruption**; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap **life everlasting**.

This is the LAW OF SOWING AND REAPING (PERIOD). Don't deceive yourself in thinking that you are an exception to this law.

Two types of seeds

- 1) Word of God – TRUTH = Life
- 2) Sinful Flesh – Worldliness = Death

Which one are you sowing into your life on a daily basis?

Rom 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Rom 8:6 For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Rom 8:8 So then they that are in the **flesh cannot please God.**

Rom 8:13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live

DON'T SOW THE SEEDS OF THE FLESH – WORLDINESS in your life. You will reap DEATH!

Pro 22:8 He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity [Hebrew: nothingness and also trouble]: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

If you sow seeds of BET, HOLLYWOOD, RED BOX, NBA, WORLDLINESS you will reap its corruptible fruit.

If you sow HOLLYWOOD in your life don't expect to be a true follower of Jesus

If you to sow the music Boyonce, or hip hop, R&B, Jazz, and/ or rock in your life don't expect to be obedience to God's Word.

If you sow the seeds of making excuses of not doing the work of God's don't expect to see Jesus face to face

If you sow seeds of wasting God's time on the foolishness of this world don't expect everlasting life in heaven.

YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW!

Don't make it easy to SIN. Avoid situations, places, and people where bad seeds is being sown.

Rom 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision [supply] for the flesh, to *fulfil* the lusts *thereof*.

Remember if you SOW the WORD of God in your life, study it, understand it, and live by it, it will group and produce the fruits of Christ in which you will everlasting life.

SOW GOD'S WORD > Study it > Understand it > Live by it > Fruits of the Spirit = EVERLASTING!

Can you sow both seed of the WORD of God and the seeds of the world and expect TRUTH & HOLINESS?

Jas 3:12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so *can* no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

Can I reap truth if I am in a church group that sowing lies, worldliness, and vain babblings?

2Ti 2:15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2Ti 2:16 But **shun profane and vain babblings**: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

2Ti 2:17 And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus;

2Ti 2:18 Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.

How do you know what type of seed was sown in someone's life?

Mat 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Mat 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither *can* a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

Mat 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Mat 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

ALL of us who were born with the corruptible seed of sin, what must WE do?

Joh 3:3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

1 Pe 1:23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

We MUST be born again through the WORD OF GOD - TRUTH

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin,

because he is born of God.

In the parable, the Seed is the Word of God that must be sown by a “sower” first in order to have the potential to grow. Also, does it matter where the seed is sown in order for it to grow?

In the parable, who is the sower?

One who sows the seed is a farmer. Many times the Bible refers to a farmer as a husbandman. Who is the Farmer of ALL farmers? What does Jesus say?

Joh 15:1 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

God the Father is the SOWER. Also Jesus is the SOWER who came to this world to sow the seeds of His word of truth to save us from our sins.

Joh 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

What does Jesus command us to do?

Mat 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Mat 28:20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always*, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.

2Ti 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

We are also to be sowers of the Word of God, sowing seeds of TRUTH! As disciples of Christ we ALL are ordained or have been established to spread seeds of TRUTH.

Joh 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained [**set, placed, or established**] you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and *that* your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

The Sower represents

- 1) God the Father
- 2) The Son, Jesus
- 3) The disciples of Jesus (You and me)

They ALL SOW the Word of God to the world!

We MUST get out into the STREETS and OUT of our comfort zone and sow the seeds of truth everywhere! In ancient Israel and at the time of Christ many of the people live within walls city as security from the crime that was common outside the city walls. Farmers had to plant outside the walls endanger of crime. They had to be watchful and fearless. Jesus came from the bliss, beauty, and safety of Heaven to sow seeds of TRUTH to a dying world. He had to risk persecution and death to accomplish His mission. We are to do the same. We MUST go outside the four walls of the physical church and reach the world for Jesus. You will persecuted and some put to death for the sake of Jesus! TIME is short. We GOT MUCH WORK TO DO!

The seed's power is not manifested until it makes contact warmth, moisture, and air. Remember that only gets a seed started. What sustains a seed to grow into its full potential and produce fruit is that it has to be planted in the proper soil.

What are the soil types that was represented in the parable?

1. Wayside
2. Stony
3. Thorny
4. Good

We will see that the four types of soil represent the condition of the hearts of the receiver of the seed, the Word of God. Let's look at both Matthew's and Luke's account side by side.

What are the lessons taught about about the wayside soil?

Matthew 13:19	Luke 8:12
<p>Mat 13:19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked <i>one</i>, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.</p>	<p>Luk 8:12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.</p>

Wayside Soil = Wayside Heart

In Matthew 13:19 it says that the wayside heart are those who hear the word of God, but do not understand it. Why don't they understand? Because hardness of their worldly heart. They are inattentive hearers. They hear the Word of TRUTH, but they are not listening nor paying attention. They refuse to study the Word for themselves. **Why? Their minds are saturated with self and things, indulgences and pleasures of the world.** **Hebrews 3:13** says that they are “hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”

Wayside Hearts - “The spiritual faculties are paralyzed. Men hear the word, but understand it not. They do not discern that it applies to themselves. They do not realize their need or their danger. They do not perceive the love of Christ, and they pass by the message of His grace as something that does not concern them.” COL p. 45

The seed in the wayside soil doesn't even germinate. It doesn't get any moisture or warmth.

Who represents the bird that comes and takes away the seed that is dropped on wayside soil?

Satan, demons, or his human “agents”. These “agents” can be unconverted pastors and leaders.

Why do they take the seed? At the end of the Luke 8:12 it says that “**lest they should believe and be saved.**”

What is the main purpose of the Enemy, Satan and his demons?

Joh 10:10 **The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...**

What are the lessons taught about about the stony soil?

Matthew 13:20	Luke 8:13
<p>Mat 13:20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;</p> <p>Mat 13:21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or</p>	<p>Luk 8:13 They on the rock <i>are they</i>, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.</p>

persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.	
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Stony soil = Stony heart

Unlike the wayside heart, the stony heart heard the Word of God with joy. They are attentive to the word of truth. Their hearts are pricked that what they heard is the truth. They are deeply convicted. They profess to accept the word of truth. The seed begins to germinate and grow. The air, warmth, and moisture is there, but the roots of the seed is unable to reach the rich soil for nutrients to continue to grow. WHY? Because the stones are in the way. The stone represent a selfish heart. The stony heart hears the Word of God with great joy, but they like the wayside heart DON'T study the word of God from themselves. They don't understand it. They have not been broken by Rock Christ Jesus. They have not been humbled. They continue to rely on self.

“But the stony-ground hearers depend upon self instead of Christ. They trust in their good works and good impulses, and are strong in their own righteousness. They are not strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Such a one "hath not root in himself"; for he is not connected with Christ... Many receive the gospel as a way of escape from suffering, rather than as a deliverance from sin.” COL p. 48

Stony heart does not have an abiding faith in Christ. They don't have a root system that is receiving nutrients from God's Word because **they DON'T study! As a result, their short lived joy turns into sorrow when trials and persecution comes as a result of the truth.**

What are the lessons taught about the thorny soil?

Matthew 13:22	Luke 8:14
Mat 13:22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word ; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful.	Luk 8:14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of <i>this</i> life, and bring no fruit to perfection.

Thorny soil = Thorny heart (this represents the GREAT majority of professed Christians)

When and why were thorns created to grow in the soil?

Gen 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake**; in sorrow shalt thou eat *of* it all the days of thy life;

Gen 3:18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

The soil on earth was cursed for the sake of man! Thorns are a reminder of disobedience and sin. Thorns represent SIN!

Don't miss this!

What did Adam Eve do to in the garden before sin? How did they get their food?

Gen 2:5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and *there was* not a man to till the ground.

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to **dress it and to keep it**

Food grew freely in the garden. They just had to manage what God had planted. They did not have to till the soil nor weed it from thorns and weeds.

What did Adam have to do to the soil in order to grow food after he sinned?

Gen 3:19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou *art*, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Gen 3:23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

Now if a man wants to eat he has to work and sweat for his food. His has to INTENTIONALLY till the soil, sow the seeds, and keep the thorns and weeds out. Think about it. The planting of a garden for food has to be intentional. The majority of our veggies and fruit food after sin comes as a result of intentionally preparing the soil and sowing the seeds.

Thorny hearts hear the Word of God with attentive ears like the stony hearts. But unlike the stony heart they are convicted, they feel the moving of the Holy Spirit to submit to truth. They turn to Jesus with joy and gladness. They are justified by faith. Their hearts at the beginning were made humble through the word. They have enough soil tilled to plant the seed. The seed has the warmth, air, moisture, and nutrients to grow into a plant that produces fruit. But just like a real garden, tilling and sowing the seed in soil is NOT the end, you must WEED the garden continually in order for that seed to grow to its full potential producing fruit.

In the Christian walk, justification is not the end we MUST be sanctified through the WORD, made holy. Remember justification is going from guilty to not guilty in an instant by Christ, but sanctification is LIVING a holy life. Thorns in your life must be continually weeded out. Remember SIN is our natural heart that MUST be continually put into check and not allowed to grow. That seed of sin is in ALL of us.

Weeds and thorns sow and grow freely, like sin if it is NOT put in check. Seeds for our food is planted intentionally.

What keeps the thorns and weeds out?

Pray, daily Bible study, understanding it and applying God's truth in your life DAILY

What is the result of the neglect of prayer and study?

Thorns will choke out the Word. Sin loving pleasure, worldliness, deceitfulness of riches will choke out the truth.

“Satan well knows that all whom he can lead to neglect prayer and the searching of the Scriptures, will be overcome by his attacks. Therefore he invents every possible device to engross the mind.” Great Controversy, p. 520

For ALL thorny heart Christians Satan one of the three D's that lead to destruction.

Distraction, Diversion, Or Deceit!

Even though the thorny heart christian plant had growth at the beginning, it was choked out by sin and worldliness. In the end it produced NO FRUIT!

What are the lessons taught about the good soil?

Matthew 13:23	Luke 8:15
Mat 13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word , and	Luk 8:15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word,

understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Good soil = Good heart

In general the good soil represents a justified, sanctified, and active life in Jesus Christ.

They hear, study, understand, and apply God's Word in their lives by faith. As a result they produce the fruit of Christ to share with others. In other words, they become SOWERS for the kingdom of God!

Think about this... If you are not a SOWER for Christ, what soil is the seed SOWN in.

As SOWERS for Christ, can we help prepare the "soil" in our community to help turn the wayside, stony, and thorny soil into good soil?

Yes... **In garden work what is the hardest job? Tilling and weeding.** We must till and weed in the community. Preaching is good, but we must practically give in addressing issues that are affecting the community spiritually, mentally, and physically. Remember Jesus went about teaching, preaching, and healing. God has give us the healing ministry of health as the right arm of truth to break the hard ground in the community. No longer can we set back and expect others to deal with the problems in our community. We got to get our hands dirty too.

What is God telling us as farmers / sower of the kingdom?

Jer 4:3 For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.

We have to make an intentional effort to break up fallow ground of wayside and stony-ground. We must weed the thorny places. In the end it is the receivers choice, but we cannot neglect this powerful and hard work.

Which soil are you? Don't forget the law of the seed

Wayside, stony, thorny, or good...

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