

# THE PARABLE OF PARABLES

Matthew 13:1-23

# THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

- Parallel Passages
  - Matthew 13:1-23
  - Mk 4:1–20
  - Lk 8:4–15

# MATTHEW 13:1-23

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

## MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>5</sup>Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup>Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup>Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>10</sup>The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

<sup>11</sup>He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup>Those who have will be given more, and they will have an abundance. As for those who do not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>13</sup>This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;

though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>14</sup>In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“ You will be ever hearing but never understanding;

you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>15</sup>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.'



# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. <sup>17</sup>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.



# MATTHEW 13:1-23

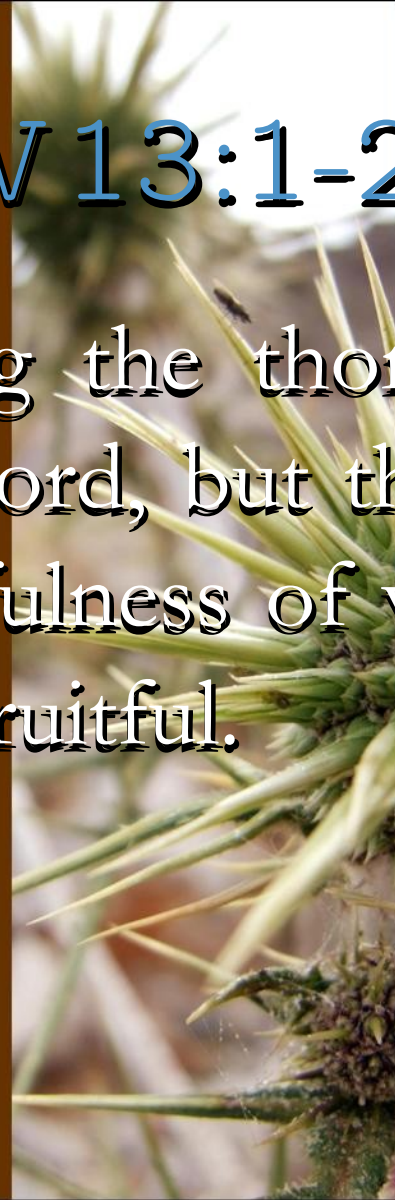
<sup>18</sup>“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup>When people hear the message about the kingdom and do not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their hearts. This is the seed sown along the path.

# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>20</sup>The seed falling on rocky ground refers to people who hear the word and at once receive it with joy. <sup>21</sup>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.

# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>22</sup>The seed falling among the thorns refers to people who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.



# MATTHEW 13:1-23

<sup>23</sup>But the seed falling on good soil refers to people who hear the word and understand it. They produce a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”





WHAT IS A PARABLE?

# WHAT IS A PARABLE?

- παραβαλλο *paraballo*
- from two Greek words (*para* and *ballō*)
- means “to set alongside”



# WHAT IS A PARABLE?

- concrete situations that illuminate some abstract concept
- comparison between a known truth and an unknown truth

# WHAT IS A PARABLE?

- fictitious story that presents content and situations that are true-to-life
- contain wisdom elements
  - Similar to Old Testament proverbs





The Four Soils

THE PATH

# The Path

- Hard-packed ground
  - No penetration
- Birds eat seed
- people hear the message don't understand it
- the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their hearts.



The Four Soils

ROCKY GROUND



# Rocky Ground

- Thin layer of soil above rocks
- Sprouts early but fades
- Hear the word and receive it with joy.
- When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.



The Four Soils

THORNS & WEEDS

# Thorns & Weeds

- Seed planted in good soil
- Good seed not alone
- Weeds choke out
- People who hear the word
- Worries of this life, deceitfulness of wealth make it unfruitful

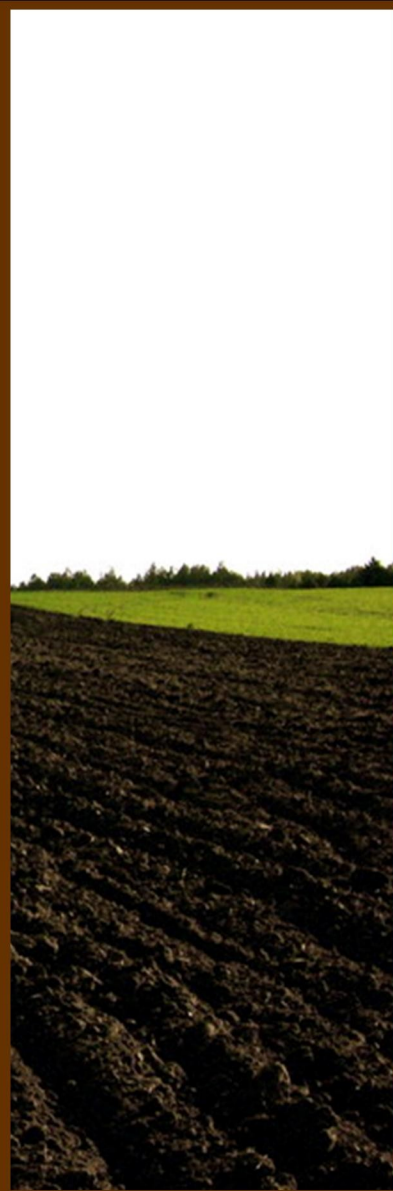


The Four Soils

FERTILE GROUND

# Fertile Ground

- Good soil
- Seed produces bountiful harvest
- People who hear the word & understand
- Produce a crop, yielding a 100, 60, or 30 times what was sown



# WHY JESUS USED PARABLES

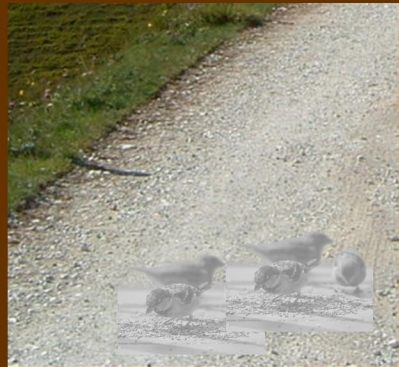
# WHY JESUS USED PARABLES

- Jesus quotes Isaiah 6:9–10 to explain why He was using parables:
  - the hearts, ears, and eyes of the people had become dull, hard, and blind.
- He excited the curiosity of the concerned
- But He was also hiding the truth from the rebellious
- The parables did not keep people from learning the truth; rather, the parables excited their interest and encouraged them to learn.

SO WHAT?

# SO WHAT?

- Parable is about the soil
- Jesus says soil = heart
- How's yours?





NOW WHAT?

# NOW WHAT?

- Roto-tiller?
- Weed killer?
- Fertilizer?

