

Sermon Notes

The Parable of the Sower/Soils (Matthew 13)

Introduction:

This may be the most important of all 40 or more parables Jesus told. If it's not the most important, then it's certainly the most foundational. It's the first one we need to understand and obey if we are going to get deep understanding of the others. It's the parable that helps us interpret all the parables.

1.

2. [Mk 4:13]

3.

4.

13:1) The introduction

“Same day”—context: Who are in Christ's family?

13:2) “great crowds”

13:3) “many things in parables” [13:34]

“Parable” has a broad semantic range: proverb, simile, comparison, riddle, story, (figures of speech of all types)

“An earthly story with a heavenly meaning.” It reveals truth from God.

Often called “The Parable of the Sower” but actually “The Parable of the Soils.”

The key question last week: Which son are you?

Key question today: Which soil are you?

13:4) Path:

13:5–6) Rocky soil: “not much soil”

“immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil”

13:7) Weeds

13:8) Good soil

13:9) Jesus encourages them to think about it, to seek understanding, to not let it go!

13:10) Why teach in parables?

13:11) Why does God give truth to some but not others?

He gives more truth to those who already have some truth, to those who truly believe the Bible and the teaching Jesus has already given, those who humble themselves before the word of God.

[Matt 11:25]

13:13–15)

“For this people’s heart has grown dull . . . their eyes they have closed”

[Acts 28:25b–28]

God may even harden/strengthen their hearts more. **[Mark 4:10–12]**

“Judicial hardening” [Pharaoh]

[John 12:39–40]

Jesus speaks in parables to hide the truth from them. Only those who have humble hearts to seek the truth will understand.

13:16–17)

13:18-19) 1st Soil: Path (hardness of heart)

13:20-21) 2nd Soil: Rocky (shallow commitment)

13:22) 3rd Soil: Weeds (distractions/other priorities)

13:23) 4th Soil: Good (humble, obedient heart)

A huge, superabundant, truly extraordinary harvest.

Conclusion:

1) Remember the large crowds in 13:2?

2) Remember the context: "That same day"

What kind of heart do you have?

What kind of fruit are you producing?