

THE GOSPELS

Parables

Matthew 13:2 (NIV) “Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.”

Matthew 13:3 (NIV) “Then he told them many things in parables, saying: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed.’”

Matthew 13:4-8 (NIV) “As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown”

Matthew 13:9 (NIV) “Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

How to have a heart that is open to God's Word:

Matthew 13:18 (NIV) “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:”

1. Understand Spiritual warfare.

Matthew 13:19 (NIV) “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.”

2. Grow deeper spiritual roots.

Matthew 13:20-21 (NIV) “The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But 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 13:21 (NIV) “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 22:29 (NIV) “...you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God.”

Romans 12:2 (NIV) “... but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”

3. Eliminate the distractions.

Matthew 13:22 (NIV) “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.”

Luke 8:14 (NIV) “The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s **worries, riches and pleasures** ...”

4. Keep a receptive heart.

Matthew 13:23 (NIV) “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.”

John 4:50 (NIV) “‘Go,’ Jesus replied, ‘your son will live.’ **The man took Jesus at his word and departed.**”