

February 15 & 16, 2020



STORIES OF THE KING.

Why isn't the good news of Jesus
universally accepted?

Parable: Is a simple, fictional story that has two meanings by describing...

- what we understand to explain what we don't understand
- what is seen to explain what is not seen
- what is simple to explain what is spiritual

Matthew 13:3-8 “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

The Path: The hardened heart

Matthew 13:18-19 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹ 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 Rocky Soil: The shallow heart

Matthew 13:20-21 “The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹ 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 Thorny Soil: The divided heart

Matthew 13:22 “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.”

The Good Soil: The productive heart

Matthew 13:23 “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.”

Main Point: The heart of the hearers determines the effect the Word has on them.

The result of being receptive to God's Word is not the skill of the sower or the power of the seed, but the condition of the heart!

Closing Thoughts

1. Have the courage to be a sower!
2. Have the courage to ask God to change your heart!