

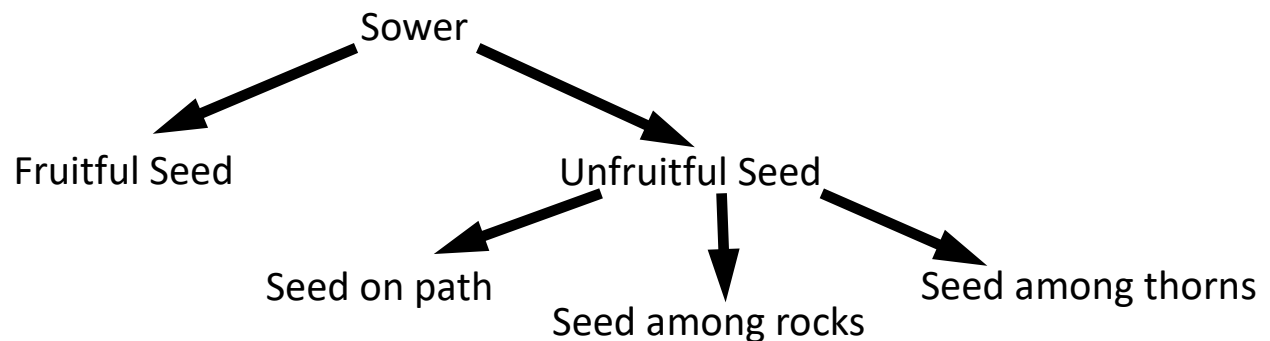
Parable of the Sower

Mark 4:3-20

Last week we defined the importance of parables in the ministry of Jesus. Jesus used parables to communicate with His followers. The Bible records that Jesus' faithful followers would understand His parables because their hearts were in tune with His. Let's start with a recap of what we learned last week.

- Focuses on the nature of God and His kingdom
- Highlights the behavior of those who are truly God's people
- Describes the activity and/or destiny of the unrighteous

The Parable of the Sower communicates how God spreads His message and ultimately how we must accept or reject His good news.



The disciples asked Jesus to explain the parable to them. He does so in verses 13-20.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus says...

- The **SEED** is the word of God - See Luke 8:11; Matthew calls it - "the word of the kingdom" - See Matthew 13:19 - **Mark 4:13-14**
- The path are people who are hardened; He describes the activity of Satan - **Mark 4:15**
- The rocky ground represents people who receive the word initially with joy; but they cannot persevere - **Mark 4:16-17**
- Thorny ground represents people who are preoccupied with pleasures; there is no room for God - **Mark 4:18-19**
- Good soil is people who hear, receive, and bear fruit; God's grace is experienced - **Mark 4:20**

"Fruitfulness is never in the gospel the condition by which life is earned, but it is always the test by which to prove it." G.A. Chadwick, *The Gospel According to Mark*, p.843