



THE GOSPEL OF  
MATTHEW



# The Parable of the Sower: The Shallow Soil

Matthew 13:5–6, 20–21



## Matthew 13:1–4

<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.”



## Matthew 13:5–9

<sup>5</sup> “Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear.”



## Matthew 13:18–21

<sup>18</sup> “Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”



## Matthew 13:22–23

<sup>22</sup> “As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

<sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”



## 1. Shallow faith hides a hard heart (13:5, 20–21)

<sup>5</sup> “Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil...”

<sup>20</sup> “As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,  
<sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while...”



## 2. Shallow faith may look alive (13:5, 20–21)

<sup>5</sup> “Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil...”

<sup>20</sup> “As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,  
<sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while...”





The mark of the Christian is not how well we're doing,  
but what we do when we're not doing well.

— John Hannah



### 3. Shallow faith won't survive suffering (13:6, 21)

<sup>6</sup> “...but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.”

<sup>21</sup> “...yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”



## Matthew 5:10–12

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>11</sup> Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”



## John 15:20

“Remember the word that I said to you: ‘A servant is not greater than his master.’ If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”



## John 16:1, 4

<sup>1</sup> “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away... <sup>4</sup> I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I told them to you.”



## 2 Timothy 3:12

Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life  
in Christ Jesus will be persecuted...



## 1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.



We all wait in life for things to get easier. It will never get easier. What happens is you *handle hard better*... Because if you have a meaningful pursuit in life, it will never be easy.

— Kara Lawson





## Nehemiah 4:16–18

<sup>16</sup> ...half of my servants worked on construction, and half held the spears, shields, bows, and coats of mail...

<sup>17</sup> Those who carried burdens were loaded in such a way that each labored on the work with one hand and held his weapon with the other. <sup>18</sup> And each of the builders had his sword strapped at his side while he built.



## 4. Shallow faith will fall away (13:6, 21)

<sup>6</sup> “...but when the sun rose they were scorched. **And since they had no root, they withered away.**”

<sup>21</sup> “...and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, **immediately he falls away.**”



## Hosea 6:4

Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes early away.



## Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



## Hebrews 10:39

...we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed,  
but of those who have faith and preserve their souls.



## 1 John 2:19

They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.



## Hebrews 3:14

For we have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.



## John 10:27–29

<sup>27</sup> “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. <sup>29</sup> My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand.”





If there's one thing to know about my mom, it's that she doesn't stop.

And if you don't stop, you're unstoppable.

I don't know how my mom was so unstoppable despite all that stuff happening. I dunno. Maybe it's anticipation.

Hope.

The anticipation that the God who listens in love will one day speak justice.



The hope that some final fantasy will come to pass that will make everything sad untrue.

Unpainful.

That across rivers of sewage and blood will be a field of yellow flowers blooming. You can get lost there and still be unafraid. No one will chase you off it. It's yours. A father who loves you planted it for you... there are other people there, but they are all kind. Or better than that, they are right with each other. They treat each other right.



If you have that, maybe you keep moving forward.

— Daniel Nayeri



## John 16:33

“In the world you will have tribulation.  
But take heart; I have overcome the world.”



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