

# “But I Tell You...” Week 7



August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023

## “Blessed Are Those Who See and Hear!”

*Matthew 13:1-9 (NIV)*

### Review:

- The door to the Kingdom of God comes by carefully hearing the Word, understanding it, and receiving it.

**Matthew 13:1-9 (NIV)** *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then He told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.”*

### What is a Parable?

- A simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson.
- The word “*parable*” literally means something that is “cast alongside of” something else.

**Matthew 13:10-17 (NIV)** *The disciples came to Him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” <sup>11</sup> He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. <sup>12</sup> Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. <sup>13</sup> This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. <sup>14</sup> In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:*

### Why use Parables?

- Jesus was introducing concepts of God’s Kingdom to the minds and hearts of His listeners.
- Parables forced people to dig deeper for answers.

**Matthew 13:12 (NIV)** *<sup>12</sup>Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.*

- Those who are open and sensitive to spiritual truth, more truth will be given to them.
- Those who are not open, who do not want to discern, they will lose what they seem to have.
- **Matthew 13:13,15; Jeremiah 7:24.**

**Matthew 13:18-23 (NIV)** *“Listen then to what the parable of the Sower means: <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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.”*

## The Four Soil Types Relate to Four Conditions of the Heart.

1. **The hard heart**—people who hear intellectually but never really believe. The soil of their heart is hard.

- What they hear is only theoretical.
- The good news about the Kingdom falls on hard ground where the devil snatches it away.
- The seeds can't germinate unless they penetrate into deeper soil.
- There is one reason hearts become hard: **SIN!**

**2. The shallow heart—people who professes excitement and enjoyment with the Word.** However, their hearts are not changed, and when trouble arises, their faith quickly disappears.

- What they have is only emotional.
- They move past the theoretical but do not understand nor comprehend the truth. No roots to withstand the heat of life.
- Shallow hearted people want God to bless their kingdom and when He doesn't, they leave God.
- They don't see their sin nor their need for a Savior. Jesus is their service provider.

**3. The divided heart—people who hear and receive the Word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth make them unfruitful.**

- **Matthew 6:24, 34.**
- The divided heart lets the competing voices of this world choke out the voice of God.
- These people have roots, stick around, and endure, but their faith is choked out and unable to produce fruit.
- They feel like they cannot overcome issues, and their joy is perpetually robbed from them.

**4. The fruitful heart—people who hear the Word and seek to understand it, apply it to their lives, and adjust their lives to live out the truths being taught.**

- They live out a consistent abiding relationship with Jesus.
- They know if they want to make a lasting difference in this life, they need to reflect Jesus' words in who they are when no one is watching.
- They've internalized the truths of God and are willing to fully yield control of their lives to God, rather than allowing their lusts and temporary pursuits to lead them astray.
- They have discovered that the secret of true joy in life comes through continually yielding to God and serving others, rather than seeking to serve themselves instead.

**APPLICATION:**

- What signs do you see in your life that you may have become hard-hearted?
- Are you looking for God to bless your plans and make your life easy? What will you do to change your perspective?
- Is your heart so crowded with the things of this world that you are stuck and can't move forward?
- Where do you have divided loyalties that you need to change?

**RESOURCE:**

*"A World of Difference: Putting Christian Truth-Claims to the Worldview Test"* (Reasons to Believe) by Kenneth Richard Samples