

Matthew 13:1-23 **Parable from Boat – Sower, Seed and Ground – Reason for Parables**

Setting for Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven

¹ On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. ² And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. ³ Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying:

Sower, Seed and Ground

"Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" NKJV

Reason for Parables

Matthew 13:10-17

¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" ¹¹ He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. ¹² For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. ¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. ¹⁴ And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says:

'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand,
And seeing you will see and not perceive;
¹⁵ For the hearts of this people have grown dull.
Their ears are hard of hearing,
And their eyes they have closed,
Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears,
Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn,
So that I should heal them.'

¹⁶ "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; ¹⁷ for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. NKJV

Explanation of Sower, Seed, and Ground [Matthew 13:18-23, Mark 4:14-20, Luke 8:11-15]

Matthew 13:18-23

¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ **When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it**, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received **seed by the wayside**.

²⁰ But he who received the **seed on stony places**, this is he who **hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.**

22 Now he who received **seed among the thorns** is he who **hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.**

23 But he who received **seed on the good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."
NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Parable of the Sower and the soils [Mark 4:1-20, Matthew 13:1-23, Luke 8:4-15]

Setting for Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven

- ✚ From the house in Capernaum, Jesus went down to the sea and got into a boat, and sat. From the boat, Jesus began to speak to the multitude on the shore in parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. [Matthew 13:1-3, Mark 4:1-2]
- ✧ The boat belonged to Simon (Peter), whose business partners were James and John, owners of the second boat, they were washing their nets after fishing all night and catching nothing. [Luke 5:3, 10]
- ✧ Jesus got into the boat and asked Simon to put out a little from the shore because of the press of the crowd who were pressing about Him to hear the Word of God. [Luke 5:1-3]
- ✧ Jesus sat down and taught the Multitudes from the boat on the Sea of Galilee (Lake Gennesaret, also known as Sea of Tiberias). [Luke 5:3, John 6:1]

Reason for Parables [Matthew 13:10-17]

- ✚ The reason for the parables was to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah. [Isaiah 6:8-10]
- ✚ The disciples of Jesus were given the ability to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven.
 - ✧ These were the ones who had a heart to hear and understand, and expressed interest to know. [Mark 4:10-12, Matthew 13:10-11, Luke 8:9-10]
- ✚ Those who were not disciples, were not given that ability. [Mark 4:11-12, Matthew 13:13-15, Luke 8:10]
 - ✧ These were the ones who came to challenge Jesus, or just to be entertained.
- ✚ Those who have a heart to seek understanding, will be given more in abundance.
- ✚ Those who do not have such a heart, will lose any understanding they may have had.
 - ✧ Because, seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.
- ✚ Those who have a heart to understand are blessed because they do.
 - ✧ The things they hear and see are the things that many prophets and righteous men have longed to see and hear, but did not because it was for this specific time. [Matthew 13:16-17]

Sower, Seed and Ground [Matthew 13:3-9, Mark 4:3-20, Luke 8:4-15]

- ✚ The Sower: - is the one who brings the message of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✚ The Seed: - is the Message of the Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✚ Seed by the Wayside
- ✚ Seed in stony places
- ✚ Seed among thorns
- ✚ Seed on Good Ground

Explanation of Sower, Seed, and Ground [Matthew 13:18-23, Mark 4:14-20, Luke 8:11-15]

- ✚ **Seed by the Wayside** [Matthew 13:19, Mark 4:15, Luke 8:12]
 - ✧ When anyone **hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it**, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

- ✧ The casual hearer, is not seeking understanding, and his heart is open to any influence from the enemy who will, through many tactics, take away what he might have learned.
- ✧ He who has not, will lose even what he had. [Matthew 13:12, 25:29, Mark 4:24-25, Luke 8:18, 19:26]
- ‡ **Seed in Stony Places** [Matthew 13:20-21, Mark 4:16-17, Luke 8:13]
 - ✧ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who **hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while**. For when **tribulation or persecution** arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.
 - ✧ Unless one is well grounded in the word with knowledge and understanding, he will fail when he runs into Tribulation and Persecution because of his claim to have faith.
- ‡ **Seed among Thorns** [Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:18-19, Luke 8:14]
 - ✧ Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who **hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful**.
 - ✧ We must always be on guard against the temptation of being distracted by the cares of life in this present world. If we lose our focus, we will become unfruitful.
- ‡ **Seed on Good Ground** [Matthew 13:23, Mark 4:20, Luke 8:15]
 - ✧ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who **hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces**: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
 - ✧ What the heart God is looking for, is a heart who is willing to hear, who seeks out the understanding of it, and who puts it into practice in his life demonstrating fruitfulness. It becomes a part of him, and others can see it.
 - ✧ This is the evidence everyone is looking for when you tell them you are a Christian. It must be demonstrated in your life.
 - ✧ He who has, to him even more will be added. [Matthew 13:12, 25:29, Mark 4:24-25, Luke 8:18, 19:26]
- ‡ He who has ears to hear, let him hear. [Matthew 13:9]
 - ✧ Not everyone is able or willing to accept the truth revealed. [Matthew 11:14]
 - ✧ That remained the statement throughout the Church age, and the book of Revelation. [Matthew 11:15, 13:9-17, 43, Mark 4:9, 23, 7:16, 8:18, Luke 8:8, 14:35, Acts 28:27, Romans 11:8, Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, 13:9]