

Lesson 13: The Parables of the Kingdom

Objective: To learn how we hear and receive the Word of God determines (will show) whether or not there is fruit in our lives.

Background: Jesus was no longer welcomed to teach in the Synagogue because the religious leaders were against Him. He began to teach outdoors and taught often in parables. The parables of Jesus were simple stories known by every Jew and Jesus told them to tell (illustrate) some important spiritual lessons (truths). In Matthew 13 Jesus told 7 parables about the Kingdom which is about God's rule in our lives.

Instructions: Read Matthew chapter 13 twice during the week before you study the parable of the Sower in verses 1-9 and 18-23.

Let's Think: On a separate piece of paper, please draw a picture of the scene where Jesus is teaching the crowd. (Matthew 13:1,2)

In His teaching, Jesus told a parable of the Sower (Matthew 13:3-9) and He explained that the four kinds of ground where the seed fell are like four kinds of hearts (or people) who hear the Word of God, the seed. (Matthew 13:18-23)

1. The "Path" Ground

a) What happened to the seed that fell on the path? Does it bear fruit? (Matthew 13:3,4)

b) What kind of people are like "the path ground:"? Have they received the message?

c) What happens when you do not obey God's Word? Explain (Matthew 13:18,19)

2. The "Rocky" Ground

a) What happened to the seed that fell on the rocky ground? Does it bear fruit?
(Matthew 13:5,6)

b) Why do "the rocky ground" type of people end in failure since they receive the message gladly? Are they committed (look the word up in a dictionary)? Explain (Matthew 13:20,21)

c) Does it make any difference whether you receive God's Word with your "feelings" (emotions) or with your "will" (commitment)? Explain

3. The "Thorny" Ground

a) What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns? Does it bear fruit? Matthew 13:7)

b) Have "the thorny ground" type of people received the message whole-heartedly? What are the number one things (priorities) in their lives? (Matthew 13:22, compare with Matthew 6:33)

c) What are the "thorns" that would wipe out the growth of God's Word in your life?

4. The "Good" Ground

a) What happened to the seed that fell on the good ground? Does it bear fruit?

b) What makes "the good ground" type of people different from the other three since all of them had an opportunity to hear God's Word? Explain (Matthew 13:8,23)

5. Answer honestly

a) What kind of ground are you? What kind of ground would you like to be? Do you know what it is that keeps you from becoming the kind of ground you want to be? What change do you have to make? Write what you are going to do and DO IT!

Let's Remember: "Jesus said, "He who has ears, let him hear." (Matthew 13:9)

