

90. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

**Matt. 13:1-9**

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat there; and the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables,

saying: "A sower went

out to sow.

4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path,

and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they had not much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched; and since they had no root they withered away.

7 Other seeds fell upon thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain,

some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty.

9 He who has ears, let him hear."

**Mark 4:1-9**

1 Again he began to teach beside the sea. And a very large crowd gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land. 2 And he taught them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: 3 "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path,

and the birds came and devoured it. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it had not much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil; 6 and when the sun rose it was scorched, and since it had no root it withered away.

7 Other seed fell among thorns and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded

no grain. 8 And other seeds fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty-fold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." 9 And he said,

"He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

**Luke 8:4-8**

(8:1-3, § 84, p. 60)

4 And when a great crowd came together and people from town after town came to him,

cf. 5:1-3 (§ 17, p. 19)

he said in a parable:

5 "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. 6 And some

fell on the rock;

and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it.

8 And some fell into good soil and grew and yielded

a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

ν text: S B it (some MSS.) sy<sup>s</sup>; add, to hear: C D W Θ λ φ Ϟ it (some MSS.) vg sy<sup>c</sup> sy<sup>p</sup> sa bo.

93. THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

Matt. 13:18-23

18 "Hear then the parable of the sower.

19 When any one hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in his heart; this is what was sown along the path.  
20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 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.  
22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is he who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the delight in riches

choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is he 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."

Mark 4:13-20

13 And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables? 14 The sower sows the word. 15 And these are the ones along the path, where the word is sown; when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word which is sown in them. 16 And these in like manner are the ones sown upon rocky ground, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and they have no root in themselves, but endure for a while; then, when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.  
18 And others are the ones sown among thorns; they are those who hear the word, 19 but the cares of the world, and the delight in riches, and the desire for other things, enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 20 But those that were sown upon the good soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold."

Luke 8:11-15

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.  
12 The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved.  
13 And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. 14 And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. 15 And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience."

94. THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES.

Matt. 13:12 (§ 91, p. 66)

21 And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in<sup>x</sup> to be put under a bushel, or under a bed, and not on a stand?\*

Luke 8:16-18

16 "No one after lighting a lamp covers it with a vessel, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a stand, that those who enter may see the light.\*

\* Matt. 5:15 (§ 20, p.21): "Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house."

Luke 11:33 (§ 153, p.108): "No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar or under a bushel, but on a stand, that those who enter may see the light."

<sup>w</sup> Or, *stumble* (*stumbles*). <sup>x</sup> text: S A B C ⊕ λ ϙ it (some MSS.) vg sy<sup>p</sup>; *lighted*: D W φ it (some MSS.) sa bo.