

MATTHEW 13:1-9 - Telling the Parable

1 On that day Jesus had gone out of the house and was sitting by the sea.
2 And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.
3 And He told them many things in parables, saying,

“Behold, the sower went out to sow;

Roadside Soil:

4 and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

Rocky Soil:

5 Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and they sprang up immediately, because they had no depth of soil. 6 But after the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Thorny Soil:

7 Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

Good Soil:

8 But others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty *times as much*.

Closing:

9 The one who has ears, let him hear.”

MARK 4:1-9 - Telling the Parable

1 Again He began to teach by the sea. And such a very large crowd gathered to Him that He got into a boat on the sea and sat down; and the whole crowd was by the sea on the land.
2 And He was teaching them many things in parables, and was saying to them in His teaching,

3 “Listen *to this!* Behold, the sower went out to sow;

Roadside Soil:

4 as he was sowing, some *seed* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate it up.

Rocky Soil:

5 Other *seed* fell on the rocky *ground* where it did not have much soil; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.

Thorny Soil:

7 Other *seed* fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

Good Soil:

8 Other *seeds* fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundred *times as much*.”

Closing:

9 And He was saying, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

LUKE 8:4-8 - Telling of the Parable

4 Now when a large crowd was coming together, and those from the various cities were journeying to Him, He spoke by way of a parable:

5 “The sower went out to sow his seed;

Roadside Soil:

and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled underfoot, and the birds of the sky ate it up.

Rocky Soil:

6 Other *seed* fell on rocky *soil*, and when it came up, it withered away because it had no moisture.

Thorny Soil:

7 Other *seed* fell among the thorns; and the thorns grew up with it and choked it out.

Good Soil:

8 And *yet* other *seed* fell into the good soil, and grew up, and produced a crop a hundred times as much.”

Closing:

8b As He said these things, He would call out, “The one who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Telling: Commonalities and Differences

Unique to Matthew

- Says “Jesus had gone out of the house”

Unique to Luke

- Luke does not mention the sea or boat
- Luke says “a” parable; Matthew and Mark say “many things in parables”
- Luke only: people are from various cities

- Luke only: says sower went to “his” seed

Roadside Soil:

- Luke only: adds “trampled underfoot”
- Matthew uses plural words about seeds (“they”); Mark & Luke use singular (“it”)

Rocky Soil:

- Unlike Matt-Mark, Luke doesn’t include
 - “did not have much soil”
 - “sun” or “scorched” or “no root”
- Luke only: “when it came up...” not “immediately” like Matthew and Mark
- Luke only: “because it had no moisture”
- Matthew: “rocky places”; Mark “rocky ground”; Luke “rocky soil” (check Greek)

Thorny Soil:

Mark only: Adds “it yielded no crop”
Luke only: thorns “grew up with” the seed (check Greek “came up” & “grew up with”)

Good Soil:

Mark only: “grew up and increased”
Matthew - Quantity: 100, 60, 30 times
Mark - Quantity: 30, 60, 100 times
Luke - Quantity: only “100 times as much”

Closing:

Luke only: Adds Jesus “would call out” the saying, “the one who has ears...”

Commonalities among all 3 passages

- All say, crowds were coming to Jesus
- All say, “sower went out to sow”
- All say, “the seed fell” (check Greek)
- All said, “some seed fell beside road”
- All say, “among thorns”
- All say, “good soil”
- Rocky soil: all say seed “withered away”
- All say, “He who has ears to hear...”

MATTHEW 13 - Explaining the Parable

18 "Listen then to the parable of the sower.

Roadside Soil:

19 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 the one sown *with seed* beside the road.

Rocky Soil:

20 The one sown *with seed* on the rocky places, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately he falls away.

Thorny Soil:

22 And the one sown *with seed* among the thorns, this is the one who hears the word, and the anxiety of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Good Soil:

23 But the one sown *with seed* on the good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces, some a hundred, some sixty, and some thirty *times as much*."

MARK 4 - Explaining the Parable

13 And He *said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? How will you understand all the parables?"

14 The sower sows the word.

Roadside Soil:

15 These are the ones who are beside the road where the word is sown; and when they hear, immediately Satan comes and takes away the word which has been sown in them.

Rocky Soil:

16 And in a similar way these are the ones sown *with seed* on the rocky *places*, who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with joy; 17 and *yet* they have no *firm* root in themselves, but are *only* temporary; then, when affliction or persecution occurs because of the word, immediately they fall away.

Thorny Soil:

18 And others are the ones sown *with seed* among the thorns; these are the ones who have heard the word, 19 but the worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things enter and choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.

Good Soil:

20 And those are the ones sown *with seed* on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept *it* and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundred *times as much*."

LUKE 8 – Explaining the Parable

11 "Now this is the parable: the seed is the word of God.

Roadside Soil:

12 And those beside the road are the ones who have heard, then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.

Rocky Soil:

13 Those on the rocky *soil* are the ones who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and *yet* these do not have a *firm* root; they believe for a while, and in a time of temptation they fall away.

Thorny Soil:

14 And the *seed* which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are choked by worries, riches, and pleasures of *this* life, and they bring no fruit to maturity.

Good Soil:

15 But the *seed* in the good soil, these are the ones who have heard the word with a good and virtuous heart, and hold it firmly, and produce fruit with perseverance.

Commonalities and Differences

- Mark only: Jesus seems incredulous at their lack of understanding.
- Luke only: "seed is the word of God."
- Mark only: "The sower sows the word"

Roadside Soil:

- Matthew only: "word of the kingdom"
- Matthew only: "does not understand it"
- Matthew only: "comes & snatches away"
- Mark only: "immediately Satan"
- Matthew only: "sown in his heart"
- Luke only: "takes word from their heart"
- Mark only: "word...sown in them"
- Matthew: "evil one"; Mark: "Satan"; Luke: "the devil"
- Luke only: "not believe and be saved"

Rocky Soil:

- Matt & Mark: no firm root "in themselves"
- Matt & Mark: "temporary"
- Luke only: "believe for a while"
- Matthew and Mark: "affliction or persecution because of the word"
- Luke only: "time of temptation fall away"
- Matthew and Mark: "immediately falls away"

Thorny Soil:

- Matthew only: "anxiety of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth"
- Mark only: "worries of the world, and the deceitfulness of wealth, and the desires for other things"
- Luke only: "worries, riches, and pleasures of *this* life"

Good Soil:

- Matthew only: "hears" & "understands it"
- Mark only: "hear" and "accept"
- Luke only: "hear... with a good and virtuous heart"
- Luke only: "hold it firmly"
- Luke only: "produce with perseverance"
- Matthew and Mark: opposite qty. order
- Luke only: no mention of quantity of fruit

Common To All

- For each soil type: all "hear" the word
- Beside Road: All reference "heart"
- Rocky: All say, "received it with joy"
- Rocky: All say, "no firm root"
- Thorny: All say, "choke"
- Good: All say, "hear the word"

MATTHEW 13 – Between Telling & Explaining The Parable

10 And the disciples came up and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?”

11 And Jesus answered them, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted.

12 For whoever has, to him *more* shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him.

13 Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

14 And in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, ‘You shall keep on listening, but shall not understand; and you shall keep on looking, but shall not perceive;

15 For the heart of this people has become dull, with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and return, and I would heal them.’

16 But blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. **17** For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

Mark 4 – Between Telling & Explaining The Parable

10 As soon as He was alone, His followers, along with the twelve *disciples*, *began* asking Him *about* the parables.

11 And He was saying to them, “To you has been given the mystery of the kingdom of God,

11b but for those who are outside, everything comes in parables, **12** so that while seeing they may see, and not perceive, and while hearing, they may hear, and not understand,

12b otherwise they might return and it would be forgiven them.”

Luke 8 – Between Telling & Explaining The Parable

9 Now His disciples *began* asking Him what this parable meant.

10 And He said, “To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God,

10b but to the rest *they are told* in parables, so that while seeing they may not see, and while hearing they may not understand.

Commonalities and Differences

- Mark only: Jesus was alone with his followers + the 12 disciples
- Matthew: “kingdom of heaven”; Mark and Luke: “kingdom of God”
- Mark: singular “mystery of the kingdom”; Matthew and Luke: “mysteries of the kingdom”
- Mark: “granted” Matt & Luke: “given”

- Matthew only: v12 info

- All: Only two groups exist: hear/see and understand or don’t

- Matthew only: Quotation from Isaiah. Prophecy fulfilled is a main focus of Matthew to his audience.

- Matthew & Mark only: “otherwise”
- Check Greek for “might” (see) (return).
- Mark: Tone used in English, could change interpreted meaning (Jesus wanting to keep them unknowing or not). Emphasis and blame must be on blindness, deafness, and dullness of heart, otherwise, they would return.
- Matthew only: vv.1 16-17 “blessed...”

Common To All

- All: disciples asked about parables
- All: “to you it has been granted (given) to know the mysteries”
- All: Only two groups exist: hear/see and understand or don’t
- All: mention “mystery of the kingdom”
- Only two groups exist: hear/see or don’t