

To the Crowds by the Sea

October, 27 A.D.

Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23

Mark 4:1-20

Luke 8:4-15

Setting of Sermon of Parables

Texts:

Matthew 13:1-3a,

- 1. That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.**
- 2. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.**
- 3. Then he told them many things in parables,**

Mark 4:1, 2,

- 1. Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge.**
- 2. He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said:**

Luke 8:4,

- 4. While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable:**

Commentary:

I. Jesus left the house, likely that of Peter and Andrew in Capernaum in which he was staying, and sat by the seaside. He attracted a large crowd of people.

A. The crowd was so big that Jesus got into a boat and sat after casting out a little from the shore.

B. The multitudes remained standing on the beach of the Sea of Galilee.

C. Jesus sat to teach and the audience stood to listen as was the custom of the day.

II. Jesus spoke many things to the multitude in parables delineating his beliefs, doctrines.

A. Parables are “earthly stories with heavenly meanings.”

B. Spoken in figurative language parables can clarify or obscure the points being made depending on the attitude, mind-set of the listeners.

Parable of the Soils

Texts:

Matthew 13:3b – 23,

3b. “A farmer went out to sow his seed.

4. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

5. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

6. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

7. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

8. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

9. He who has ears, let him hear.”

10. The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

11. He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

12. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

13. This is why I speak to them in parables: “though seeing they do not see; though hearing they do not hear or understand.”

14. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: “You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

15. For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”

16. But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

17. For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

18. “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

19. When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

20. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

21. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

22. The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

23. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Mark 4:3-20,

3. “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed.

- 4. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.**
- 5. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow**
- 6. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.**
- 7. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain.**
- 8. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, multiplying thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.”**
- 9. Then Jesus said, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”**
- 10. When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables.**
- 11. He told them, “The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables**
- 12. so that, “they may be ever seeing but never perceiving, and ever hearing but never understanding; otherwise they might turn and be forgiven”**
- 13. Then Jesus said to them, “Don’t you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable?**
- 14. The farmer sows the word.**
- 15. Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them.**
- 16. Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.**
- 17. 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.**
- 18. Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word;**
- 19. but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.**

20. Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop – thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times what was sown.”

Luke 8:5-15,

5. “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

6. Some fell on rocks, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

7. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

8. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

9. His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

10. He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, to that ““though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’

11. This is the meaning of the parable: the seed is the word of God.

12. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

13. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

14. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

15. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.”

Commentary:

Matthew 13:3b-9, “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. He who has ears, let him hear.”

I. A sower (farmer):

- A. Farmers sowed seed (wheat) by hand from a bag in those days.
- B. Those seed which fell by the wayside were eaten by the birds.
- C. Those seed which fell upon rocky places germinated and sprang up, but because the soil was very shallow, the sun withered the plants and they died.
- D. Other seed fell among thorns and, when the plants had sprouted, the thorns choked them to death.
- E. Some seed fell on good ground and produced a bountiful harvest.
- F. Those who hear this story need to listen carefully and understand what Jesus is teaching.

Matthew 13:10, The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

I. The disciples (apostles and other followers) asked Jesus why he addressed the multitudes in parables instead of speaking plainly without the use of stories.

II. In this chapter containing seven parables, the first four were addressed to the multitudes while the last three were addressed to the disciples.

A. The disciples noticed this change in teaching methods.

B. They, having noticed this change in teaching methods, asked Jesus quickly about this matter.

Matthew 13:11, He replied, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.

I. Jesus said:

A. The disciples were approved of God to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The parables helped the disciples to understand.

B. The multitudes were not approved of God to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. The parables obscured the meanings of Jesus’ teachings from the multitudes.

C. Jesus turned to teaching in parables after opposition had developed to his ministry. The parables kept his enemies from having anything to use against him. Spies now followed Jesus wherever he went.

D. “Mysteries of the kingdom” include things difficult to understand in regard to the matter of human redemption.

1. Romans 16:25-27, Now to him who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey him – to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ! Amen.
2. 1 Corinthians 2:7, 8, No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
3. "Mysteries" in the New Testament refer to the glorious truth long concealed but now revealed.
4. Ephesians 1:10, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment – to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.

Matthew 13:12, Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

I. Those who had perceptive, sincere and honest hearts would understand more of God's will.

II. Those without spiritual discernment, without honest and good hearts, would lose even the little understanding they had of the kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:13, This is why I speak to them in parables: "though seeing they do not see; though hearing they do not hear or understand.

I. Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables because:

A. seeing they see not. Matthew 13:15, For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

B. hearing they neither hear nor understand.

Matthew 13:14, 15, In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

I. Jesus said his speaking in parables was fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

A. Isaiah 6:9, 10, He said, "Go and tell this people: 'Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.' Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

B. Acts 28:26, 27, "Go to this people and say, 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.' For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with

their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.”

C. Matthew 18:3, And he said; “I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

Matthew 13:16, But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.

I. Jesus said the disciples were blessed because they had spiritual eyes which saw and spiritual ears to understand the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

II. However, Jesus criticized the disciples saying that if they didn’t understand this parable they couldn’t understand more difficult parables.

Matthew 13:17, For I tell you the truth, many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

I. The apostles, Jesus said, were truly blessed because they were privileged to be associated with the Messiah and participate in the long awaited kingdom of God.

A. Many Old Testament prophets and righteous men yearned to see the long awaited Messiah and to hear his teachings but were not permitted to be alive when the Messiah came.

B. 1 Peter 1:10-12, Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.

Matthew 13:18, “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

I. Jesus now explains the parable of the soils/sower to the apostles.

A. Jesus named this story, “The Parable of the Sower.”

B. The sower originally was God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and then his faithful proclaimers of the Gospel through the ages.

II. The various soils represent different types of people to whom the gospel is preached through the ages.

Matthew 13:19, When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

I. The wayside soil represents people who hear the Gospel, but do not understand it.

II. The devil (birds) takes advantage of the situation and snatches away the gospel which had been preached to these people who did not understand the mysteries of the kingdom of God.

Matthew 13:20, 21, The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.

I. People described as “rocky places” are those who hear the gospel, receive it with gladness, but lack depth of perseverance, who continue faithful for a while, but when tribulation and other persecutions,

problems and temptations arise, they fall away and return to their former way of life.

II. These people are impressionable, easily influenced people who lack stability.

Matthew 13:22, The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.

1. People likened to thorny soil are those who hear the gospel, but the cares, riches, concerns and pleasures of the world and the deceitfulness or riches choke the word and they become unproductive, unfruitful.

II. These people have many good characteristics but evidence a fatal flaw; that is, putting earthly things before heavenly things.

Matthew 13:23, But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

I. The good soil represents honest and good people who hear the gospel, understand it, and who bear much fruit.

II. For each seed sown a hundred, sixty or thirty other seeds were produced.

III. Crops have to be cultivated. Young Christians have to be nurtured.

IV. The same high quality gospel seed is planted in all the good soils. The difference in yield has to do with the cultivation, care of the fields in which they were sown.

V. What Jesus taught.

Parable of the Sower

Questions

1. Jesus went out of the _____ and sat by the _____. Because of the large _____ he got into a _____ and _____ in it out on the lake while all the people _____ on the _____. Jesus taught them many things by _____.

2. A _____ sowed _____ in his field.

3. What happened to the seed that fell along the path? _____

4. What happened to the seed that fell on rocky places? _____

5. What happened to the seed that fell among the thorns? _____

6. What happened to the seed that fell on good ground? _____

7. Why did Jesus use parables to teach? _____

8. What type people are represented by: (a) path. _____

(b) rocky soil. _____

(d) thorny soil. _____

(3) good soil. _____

9. “_____ of the _____” include things difficult to understand in regard to the matter of _____.

10. What kind of “soil” are you? _____

Finished exam can be mailed or dropped off at:
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