

Sowing the Seed of the Gospel

Matthew 13:1-23

Main Point:

God alone determines who will be saved; therefore, prayerfully sow the seed of the gospel without discrimination.

1. Jesus spoke in parables to reveal and conceal the mysteries of His kingdom.

2. There will be different responses to our proclamation of the gospel.

3. God alone determines who will be saved.

4. Prayerfully sow the seed of the gospel without discrimination.

Quotations and Cross-References

R.C. Sproul “To those whose hearts were hardened and who could not hear so as to understand, the parables were indecipherable stories, impenetrable mysteries.”

RP Pastor “Jesus uses parables, not so that the crowds will better understand His gospel message, but to provoke His hearers to shut their ears even more.”

Gordon Keddie “The seed is the full-orbed message of God’s Word, all of it centered in Jesus Christ as the only Savior of the lost.”

John 15:8 ⁸ By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. (ESV)

Romans 3:10-11 ¹⁰ As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; ¹¹ There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. (NKJV)

R.C. Sproul “By nature, there is no fertile soil in our hearts. There is nothing in us in which the seeds of the Word of God can germinate and take root. All that we bring to the table is the flesh, and the flesh profits nothing ...”

John 3:3 ³ ... "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (NKJV)

Ephesians 2:4-5 ⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ ... (NKJV)

Ezekiel 36:26-27 ²⁶ "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷ "I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*. (NKJV)

R.C. Sproul “The good soil is the heart that has been regenerated by the Holy Spirit. When the Spirit does this work, the heart hears the Word of God so that it takes root and brings forth fruit.”

John 3:8 ⁸ "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (NKJV)

1 Corinthians 3:6 ⁶ I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. (NKJV)

2 Thessalonians 3:1 ¹ Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may run *swiftly* and be glorified, just as *it is* with you (NKJV)