

The Sower and the Soil

Sermon 41 in the Matthew Series

Matthew 12:46-13:23

Chapter 13 of Matthew records 8 “Kingdom Parables”. “The Sower and the Soil” is a parable about those who truly enter and are in the Kingdom of God.

I. Jesus and His Relatives 12:46-50

Jesus, with his mother and his brothers come to see him.

It is linguistically possible that these were his cousins, or some speculate brothers his father Joseph before meeting Mary, the most natural reading is – his brothers.

His true family is his spiritual family, who hear the Word and do God’s will.

II. The Word Sown 13:1-9

This is not “Farming 101”. Seed is valuable – so it isn’t indiscriminately thrown everywhere. However, since we cannot tell the condition of “the soil” we are to preach the gospel everywhere. The gospel is seed that can never run out.

It is our job to sow the seed, it’s God’s job to make it grow.

There are 4 types of soils – only one pictures true conversion.

The sower is the one who brings the Word of God.

1 Corinthians 3:5-8 -- Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, **but God who gives the increase**. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward...

III. The Purpose of Parables 13:10-17

The parable was given to everyone.

The explanation was given only to those close to him. (Mark 4:10)

There are two primary purposes for parables.

-- They reveal Truth

-- And they conceal truth.

And, interestingly, they do BOTH at the same time.

Those who follow Jesus to be entertained – or fed – or simply physically healed.
The parables are themselves a judgement of God. Isaiah 6:9, 10.

Parables can be short or quite detailed – but they have a central truth that the details help bring out.

Some parables are “layered” – like this one.
You can examine them from various angles – like the facets of a diamond.

Good doctrine – with a good understanding of the scope of Scripture is vital to properly understanding the parables.

III. The Word and the Soils 13:18-23

A. The Trodden Path

The birds come and take it – there can be no fruit.

B. The Rocky Soil

It's hard to properly plow rocky ground.

Your plow only goes in so far – and the seed doesn't get deep enough.

There is quick apparent growth – but no fruit comes forth – temporary.

C. The Thorny Soil.

Weeds grow naturally and easier than crops.

The weeds choke the good crops – again – there is no fruit.

The perseverance of the saints teaches us the Rocky and the Thorny soils do not produce true believers – they profess and never really possess.

D. The Good Soil

Properly prepared by God (again, understood by good doctrine)

Ready for the seed – and a harvest – also by the will of God.

There is value in sowing the seed – because the seed is valuable.

There is value in preaching the word – because it is the word.

The best value is found when the Word takes root which will always result in fruit – 30 fold, 60 fold or 100 fold (true conversion).

IV. Applying the Parable of the Sower