

Lesson 7: The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1-23; Isaiah 6:8-13

I. THE DIVINE STORY-TELLER (3)

A. Stories and Illustrations

B. Definition of a Parable: *A short, realistic story that makes one (or few) points*

II. THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES (9-17) *To hide truth from some and to reveal it to others*

A. Those from Whom It Is Hidden (12-15) *The Cursed*; Isaiah's prophecy

1. Those with Dull Hearts—*calloused and desensitized*

a. **Dulled by Sin—*seared consciences, acclimated to and anesthetized by sin***

b. **Dulled by Familiarity—*feel entitled to God's favor, take His blessing for granted***

2. Those with Deaf Ears—*not listening or paying attention; indifferent*

3. Those with Closed Eyes—*those who refuse to see*

4. Those who Refuse Correction—*the arrogant, un-teachable and unrepentant*

B. Those to Whom It Is Given (11, 16-17) *The Blessed*

1. Those who are Teachable—*don't always have to be right*

2. Those who are Willing—*to be corrected and to be redirected by the Lord*

3. Those who are Repentant—*respond to the conviction of the Holy Spirit*

C. The Haves and the Have-nots (12) *"Use it or lose it."*

1. Submission to Christ's authority leads to spiritual discernment.

2. The neglect of grace leads to the removal of grace.

D. A Double-Edged Sword (Isa 55:6-11) *God's Word will accomplish His purpose*

1. **God's Word Saves.** It enlightens and teaches and brings a sinner to repentance.
2. **God's Word Reveals.** (Heb 4:12) It will show up a hard, rebellious heart.
3. **God's Word Condemns.** It hardens the unrepentant, proves them without excuse.

III. THE PARABLE EXPLAINED (18-23) **Presents the rationale for Jesus' use of parables**

A. The Types in This Parable

1. **The Farmer**—*the preacher, the person sharing the gospel, Jesus Himself*
2. **The Different Soils**—*different responses to the gospel message*
3. **The Birds**—*the devil*
4. **The Thorns**—*idolatrous obsession with the things of this world*
 - a. **The cares of this life** (Mat 6:9-11, 25-33)—*Consumed with self-focus/self-reliance here and now*
 - b. **The deceitfulness of riches** (Mat 6:19-24; 1 Tim 6:17)—*a false sense of security*
5. **The Seed**—*the Word of God, the gospel, the good news of salvation in Christ*

B. The Point of This Parable

1. **Our job is to spread the good news of Christ.**
 - a. **With Intent**—*conscious that we are ambassadors of Jesus Christ on a mission*
 - b. **Without Discrimination** (Acts 10:34-35 and 13:48)—*don't prejudge*
2. **Some people will not receive it.**
 - a. **Tempers our expectations**—*The result is not up to us; time will tell.*
 - b. **Encourages our faithfulness**—*Do your job and trust the Holy Spirit to do His*
3. **Those who understand and receive the gospel will bear fruit.**
 - a. **Deep Roots of Faith**—*grow strong in grace and will not fall away*
 - b. **Single-minded Kingdom Focus**—*not distracted/entangled by self and world*

c. **Guaranteed Gospel Produce**—*the result of salvation, not the cause*