



The Gospel of Matthew

The Parable of the Soils Matthew 13:1-23

On that day Jesus went out of the house, and was sitting by the sea.

And great multitudes gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole multitude was standing on the beach

And He spoke many things to them in *parables*, saying...



Parables of the Kingdom

➤ Jesus' Third Discourse

- *purpose* – to illustrate that the kingdom was continuing its advance though contested and ignored
- *“parable”* – an utterance which does not carry its meaning on the surface, and thus demands thought and perception of the hearer

“Behold, the sower went out to sow; and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

And others fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

“And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty.

He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”



Parables of the Kingdom

1. Parable of the Soils

- the focus of the parable is on the different condition of the soils on which the seed fell
- only the good soil produces a plant that is useful to the sower – one that yields a crop




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2. Purpose of Parables

A. To conceal the truth

- parables present the truth in a veiled way to those whose hearts are hardened
- form of God's judgment – confirms people in their willful, hard-hearted unbelief




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2. Purpose of Parables

B. To reveal the truth

- parables vividly illustrate kingdom truth to those with eyes to see
- they reveal the “*mysteries of the kingdom*” – the present nature and advance of God's kingdom in this age




Parables of the Kingdom

3. Meaning of the Parable

➤ *the message of the kingdom receives a varied reception among various people*

- *seed* = the word of the kingdom
- *sower* = those who proclaim the kingdom
- *soils* = the heart condition of those who hear



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3. Meaning of the Parable

A. Unfruitful Soils

- #1: unresponsive, no understanding
- #2: initial response but only temporary
- #3: response is choked out by competing loves




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3. Meaning of the Parable

B. Fruitful Soil

- responds to the word with understanding and faith that produces fruit
- the fruitfulness of good soil (believers) will vary



Parables of the Kingdom

Application

1. What kind of soil are you? How are you responding to the Word?
2. Take courage, and sow the gospel seed broadly