

The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13:1–23 (New International Version)

Mark 4:1–20 (New King James Version)

Luke 8:4–15 (The Passion Translation)

Setting

- Jesus begins to speak in parables for the first time. Prior to speaking in parables, He spoke plainly, using clear explanations and examples.
- After healing a demon-possessed blind and mute man (Matthew 12; Mark 3), Jesus is accused by the leaders of the law that His powers come from the devil.

Parables

- Parables are stories that reveal kingdom truths.
- Jesus' goal through parables was to help those who were committed to know and understand the kingdom and what it is like

Matthew 13:10-13 (NIV)

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

¹¹ He replied, “Because 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 they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.

¹³ This is why I speak to them in parables:

Mysteries of the Kingdom

- Mystery is a Greek word **mustérion**.
- It is *not something unknowable*. Rather, it is what *can only be known through revelation*, i.e. because *God reveals* it.
- Therefore, it is not necessarily something that is difficult to understand.
- Is information that is hidden from people that are not initiated into a group where that knowledge is made known to people who belong to that group.

Scriptural Reference

- **Matthew 13:11 (NKJV)**

He answered and said to them, “Because it has been given to you to know the **mysteries of the kingdom of heaven**, but to them it has not been given.

- **Proverbs 25:2 (NIV)**

It is the glory of God to **conceal a matter**; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.

The Seed (The Word)

Luke 8:11 (NIV)

"This is the meaning of the parable:
The seed is the word of God.

Luke 8:11 (TPT)

11The word of God is the seed that is sown into hearts.

Matthew 13:3 (NIV)

3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed.

Mark 4:3 (NIV)

3 Listen! A farmer went out to sow seed.

The Soil (The Heart)

Matthew 13:4 (NIV)

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

Matthew 13:5-6 (NIV)

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.

Matthew 13:7 (NIV)

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

Matthew 13:8 (NIV)

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

Luke 8:12 (TPT)

- ¹² The **hard pathway** represents the **hard hearts** of men who hear the word of God but the **slanderer** quickly snatches away what was sown in their hearts to keep them from believing and experiencing salvation.

Wayside Heart/Hard Pathway

What happens	Possibilities	Time Frame
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- They hear the word.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Their initial response is indifference.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-The time frame between receiving and believing was intercepted by the devil.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The devil quickly snatches (quickly seize) away what was sown in their hearts (in this case, For fear that if it takes root, a change will be experienced).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The word was not received with joy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-It should not take long to believe when the Word of God is releasedFaith comes by hearing and hearing the word of God. (Romans 10:17)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No believe (no faith).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There was no understanding, so the information did not stick.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No salvation is experienced.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No roots where developed.	

Luke 8:13 (TPT)

- ¹³ The seed falling on the gravel represents those who initially respond to the word with joy, but soon afterward, when a *season* of harassment of the enemy and difficulty come to them, they wither and fall away, for they have no root in the truth and their faith is temporary.

Rocky/Gravel

What happens	Possibilities	Time Frame
<p>They initially respond to the word with joy (enthusiasm).</p>	<p>Inconsistent – joy can be sustained. Their initial response was joy however, was not sustained. Possibly because there was no one to stand with them.</p>	<p>-The timeframe of joy (enthusiasm) was short lived.</p> <p>-The timeframe of the enemy's harassment and life's difficulty could not be endured.</p>
<p>Two factors prevented the seed from taking root (a <i>season</i> of harassment of the enemy and difficulty come to them).</p> <p>*Gen 8:22</p>	<p>Impatience (a season of harassment of the enemy and difficulty came to them). Meaning, the word was the target, therefore, if they patiently endured, the season would have past and they will come out victorious.</p>	<p>-The timeframe needed to be established in the truth was compromised possibly because of the enemy's harassment and life's difficulties.</p>
<p>They wither and fall away. They have no root in the truth.</p>	<p>They knew the truth but were not established in it and of course that caused their faith to be temporal.</p>	<p>-Faith was temporal, not permanent.</p>

ATTENTION!!!

- **Noteworthy**

*The first two soils that received the word, among many things, was attacked by the devil. Not the case with the third and fourth.

Luke 8:14 (TPT)

-
- ¹⁴ The seed that falls into the weeds represents the hearts of those who hear the word of God but their growth is quickly choked off by **their own anxious** cares, the riches of this world, and the fleeting pleasures of this life. This is why they never become mature and fruitful.

Weeds/Thorny

What happens

Their growth is quickly choked off by

- 1) their own anxious cares,
- 2) the riches of this world, and
- 3) the fleeting pleasures of this life.

*Weeds are like leeches. They suck the life out of you.

This is why they never become mature and fruitful.

Possibilities

-There is some growth, however, not progressive due to the 3 factors (anxiety (worrying about tomorrow), worldliness (making money), and pleasure (having fun))

-Lacking in spiritual pillars (foundational teachings).

-Lacking in persistence (their growth is quickly choked off by...)

-The enemy is not the major factor, however, the inability for one to sit under the tutelage of the word in order to be transformed.

-Possibly “seen” the kingdom but

Time Frame

-The timeframe between the establishment of the word and the maturity and fruitfulness, was intercepted by the 3 factors listed.

Luke 8:15 (TPT)

- ¹⁵ The seed that fell into good, fertile soil represents those lovers of truth who hear it deep within their hearts. They respond by clinging to the word, keeping it dear as they endure all things in faith. This is the seed that will one day bear much fruit in their lives.”

Luke 8:15 (TPT)

- Those lovers of truth.
- Who hear it deep within their hearts.
- They respond by clinging to the word (hold on tightly to).
- Keeping it dear as they endure all things in faith.
- This is the seed that will one day bear much fruit in their lives. Amen!

Conclusion

- Depending on the day and the message you receive, you may fall in any of those categories. However, our goal is to be receptive to “kingdom messages”.
- “Understanding” makes the difference between “the wayside heart” and “the good soil heart”

➤ **Ps 119:130 (NLT)**

The teaching of your word gives light, so even the simple can understand.

➤ **Job 32:8 (NIV)**

But it is the spirit in a person, the breath of the Almighty, that gives them understanding.