

THE PARABLE OF THE SEED AND THE SOILS  
(Matthew 13:3b-9, 18-23)

- I. The CONTENT of the Parable (Matt. 13:3b-9)
  - A. Begins with a call for ATTENTION (13:3b)
  - B. Emphasizes the SOWER sowing seed BROADLY (13:4-8)
    - 1. Some seed fell BESIDE the ROAD
      - a. Lay open on the SURFACE of the path
      - b. Quickly EATEN by the BIRDS
    - 2. Some seed fell on ROCKY places
      - a. Immediate SPROUTING and rapid GROWTH
      - b. No deep ROOTS to SUSTAIN the plant
    - 3. Some seed fell among THORNS
      - a. CHOKED by the thorns
      - b. Produced no CROP
    - 4. Some seed fell on GOOD SOIL and produced a CROP
  - C. Ends with a command to HEED His words (13:9)
- II. The MEANING of the Parable (Matt. 13:18-23)
  - A. The SOWER is not IDENTIFIED

1. On that day, the sower had been JESUS (cf. 13:37)
  2. Later, the sowers would be the DISCIPLES
- B. The SEED is the “WORD of the KINGDOM”
1. It is GOD who CREATES the SEED
  2. It is GOD who PRODUCES the HARVEST
- C. The UNRESPONSIVE hearers
1. Their hearts are HARD
  2. The “EVIL ONE” quickly REMOVES the seed
- D. The SUPERFICIAL hearers
1. They respond IMMEDIATELY and ENTHUSIASTICALLY
  2. The Word never PENETRATES their inner life to CHANGE them
  3. Their ROOTLESSNESS becomes evident when faced with AFFLICTION or PERSECUTION
  4. They depart IMMEDIATELY under PRESSURE
- E. The WORLDLY hearers
1. Growth choked by DISTRACTIONS of the AGE
  2. Growth choked by DECEITFULNESS of WEALTH
  3. They are made UNFRUITFUL
- F. The BELIEVING hearers
1. They UNDERSTAND the Word
  2. They PRODUCE fruit (cf. Gal. 5:22-23; Phil. 1:11)