



Chapter 13:1-9 & 18-23

- Matt. 13:1 On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.
- Matt. 13:2 And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.
- Matt. 13:3 Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow.
- Matt. 13:4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the **wayside**; and the birds came and devoured them.
- Matt. 13:5 Some fell on **stony places**, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.
- Matt. 13:6 But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.
- Matt. 13:7 And some fell among **thorns**, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.
- Matt. 13:8 But others fell on **good ground** and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
- Matt. 13:9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
- Matt. 13:18 "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:
- Matt. 13:19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the **wayside**.
- Matt. 13:20 But he who received the seed on **stony places**, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;
- Matt. 13:21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.
- Matt. 13:22 Now he who received seed among the **thorns** is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.
- Matt. 13:23 But he who received seed on the **good ground** is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Observations & Discussion

The word “parable” means “*to throw alongside*”. Jesus used parables so that His hearers could compare something that was known to them with something new and unknown by laying them side by side. More than simply an analogy, or an illustration, a parable communicates heavenly truths (spiritual) using earthly (material) comparisons. Meant to help our natural minds comprehend divine, or spiritual experience, by using familiar experiences.

1. From the parable you just read what is the key ingredient to ensuring a good harvest?
2. List the practical ways that you can foster that key ingredient in your own life to ensure that your life is fruitful.
3. What are the things in life that will keep a person from producing good fruit for the Kingdom of God? Is there anything hindering your spiritual fruitfulness?
4. One translation renders vs. 9 this way: “*Are you listening to this? Really listening?*” What’s the difference between hearing and listening? Why do you think Jesus made such a big deal about listening to this parable?
5. Identify the following:
 - The sower is:
 - The seed is:
 - The birds are:
 - The soil is:
6. Select a person from the Bible who best represents the following kind of people:
 - The wayside:
 - The stony ground:
 - The thorny ground:
 - The good ground: