

Parable of Sower Mt 13:1-9, 18-23, Mk 4:1-20, Lk 8:4-15

Mt 13:1-9, 18-23

1 That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. **2** And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. **3** And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; **4** and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. **5** “Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. **6** “But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. **7** “Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. **8** “And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. **9** “He who has ears, let him hear.”

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower. **19** “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. **20** “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; **21** yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away. **22** “And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. **23** “And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Soil conditions

Beside path (HCSB “along”) exposed to theft (birds=Satan, Mk 4:15)

Rocky: “no depth of soil” cannot withstand hardship, not enough prep

Thorny: other elements (weeds) grow with the seed, sap the nutrients, stunt growth of what you plant and wish to grow

Good: abundant crop (30, 60, 100)

Interpretation

Seed beside path=those who hear only Mk 4:15

Seed (truth) sown cannot take root

Rocky: they are receptive to msg, see its truth (have joy), but no perseverance

When hard times comes, they stumble (fall away)

Thorny: fruitfulness of seed is choked by worry or pursuit of wealth (the deception of attaining it)

Good soil: those who hear and understand, and bear fruit abundantly

Scripture on result of being planted well-Psalms 1

“Tree planted by stream of water, yields fruit in its season”

When you are planted in right conditions, you can feed off what flows, not what falls

the neverending supply (flow) of water Jesus provides:

John 4:13 “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; 14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

John 7:38 “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” 39 But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 15:4-5 Connection to the vine is the key

God’s promise to His people who give themselves to His purposes (here, the needy)

Isaiah 58:11

"And the LORD will continually guide you, And satisfy your desire in scorched places, And give strength to your bones; And you will be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water whose waters do not fail.

Parable of Fig Tree Lk 13:6-9, Mt 21:18-22

This account is a Parable (to illustrate point about repentance, 13:3,5)

Lk 13 6 And He *began* telling this parable: “A man had a fig tree which had been planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and did not find any. ⁷ And he said to the vineyard-keeper, ‘Behold, for three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree without finding any. Cut it down! Why does it even use up the ground?’ ⁸ And he answered and said to him, ‘Let it alone, sir, for this year too, until I dig around it and put in fertilizer; ⁹ and if it bears fruit next year, *fine*; but if not, cut it down.’”

for three years I have come looking for fruit by now it should be producing

owner holds vineyard keeper responsible for growth of the tree

vineyard keeper asks for more time to stimulate its growth

application: God, like owner, grants more time for fruit to appear

2 Peter 3:8 But do not let this one *fact* escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day. **9**The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.

Actual Event: Mt 21:18-22

Mt 21 **18** Now in the morning, when He was returning to the city, He became hungry. **19** Seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves only; and He said to it, “No longer shall there ever be *any* fruit from you.” And at once the fig tree withered **20** Seeing *this*, the disciples were amazed and asked, “How did the fig tree wither *all* at once?” **21** And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen. **22** “And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive.”

“found nothing on it except leaves only”
conditions, there is no fruit

like the seeds’ attempt to grow in wrong

Jesus exercises His authority over nature, as He did with wind and waves, and curses the tree for lack of fruit bearing

Disciples marvel as to the extent of His authority, that it immediately withered.

Jesus makes two points:

Have faith, speak to the obstacles to faith

Have faith, ask and you will receive