
03. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

Introduction:

Jesus Himself has chosen us to bear much fruit; In John 15:16 Jesus said: **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and commissioned you to go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, and whatever you ask the Father in my name he will give you"**. God wants us to bear much fruit in this Christian life. So, our longing is to grow spiritually.

Our story is **"The Sower"**. In this story Jesus speaks of four kinds of soil. Each kind of soil represents a type of the human heart. Of the four kinds of heart only one bears fruit. The other three kinds of soil represent nonproductive hearts.

As you listen to the parable let the Holy Spirit show you what kind of heart you have. Is there anything in our life that hinders us from bearing fruit for God? This story teaches us how to grow spiritually. nbbv

How to Grow Spiritually

Story:

The Sower

One day Jesus came out of a house and sat by the lake. There were so many people that he had to get into a boat to teach them while the people stayed on the beach.

Jesus said to them, "Listen! The sower went out to sow. As he scattered the seeds, some fell on the hard path; and the birds came and ate them up. Some fell among stones, where there was not much soil. These seeds soon sprouted, but when the sun came up, the seedlings were burned and withered because they had no roots. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up with the plants and choked them. But, another part fell on the good soil and began to bear fruit. Some plants produced thirty grains, others sixty, and others up to one hundred grains per seed.

In the evening Jesus was alone with his disciples. They said to him, "Lord, tell us the parable of the sower. And Jesus said to them:

Instructions:

- *Tell the story*
- *Retell the story.*
- *Tell the story with the help of others.*
- *Have someone tell the story as accurately as possible.*
- *Ask the seven questions.*

Questions:

- 1) What do you like about this story?
- 2) What do you dislike or find confusing in this story?
- 3) What did you learn about God and His character?
- 4) What did you learn about human beings and their character?
- 5) What did God show you in this story and what should you obey?
- 6) How will you remember this story? (Answer: Tell others.)
- 7) Who has God told to tell this story, and when will you obey?

- Those who hear the message of the kingdom and do not understand it, are like the seed that fell on the hard road and the devil comes and takes away the message already sown in their hearts.
- The seed that fell among the stones represents those who hear the message and receive it gladly, but because they do not have sufficient root they do not stand firm; when they suffer trials or persecution, they fail.
- The seed sown among thorns represents those who hear the message, but the business of life preoccupies them too much and the love of wealth deceives them. All this chokes the message and does not allow it to bear fruit in them.
- But the seed sown in good soil represents those who hear the message, understand it and give a good harvest, like the ears of corn that give thirty, sixty or even a hundred grains for each seed.

Additional questions:

- Who is the sower?
- What represents the seed?
- The hard road represents what kind of heart? The birds?
- The land full of stones in which the plants sprout soon, but because it has no root and it burns and dries up represents what kind of heart?
- The land full of thorns which choke the plants represents what kind of heart?
- The land that produces fruit up to thirty, sixty or a hundred grains to each seed represents what kind of heart?
- What does fruit mean?
- How is God speaking to you through this parable?
- How can we grow spiritually? What are some important habits that a Christian must develop in order to grow in Christ?
- How will you obey the lessons of this parable this week?

Memory verse:

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John 15:16

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and commissioned you to go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, and whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you.”

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