

**A Study of the Parables of our Lord; Session # 3 – “The Seed by the Wayside”,
presented by Pastor Paul Rendall, on March 6th, 2022,
in the Adult Sunday School Class.**

To begin our time, let’s think about the main Point of this Parable

The Point of the Parable, as Benjamin Keach has said in his book – The Exposition of the Parables, is this: “One great design of this parable (as I conceive) is to show the excellent nature of the word of God, in that it is the seed of all grace in the hand of the Spirit, or as it is by the influences of the Spirit, received into a heart prepared by the convictions of the Holy Spirit.”

1st Peter 1: 23 – “Having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.”

I want to read for you, once again, Matthew Chapter 13, verses 1-23. And we will attempt to better understand the things that Jesus is saying here.

Matthew 13: 1-23 –

(1) “On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.

(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.

(3) Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. (4) And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

(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.

(6) But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

(7) And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

(8) But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

(9) He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

(10) And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?"

(11) 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.

(12) For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

(13) Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

(14) And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'HEARING YOU WILL HEAR AND SHALL NOT UNDERSTAND, AND SEEING YOU WILL SEE AND NOT PERCEIVE;

(15) FOR THE HEARTS OF THIS PEOPLE HAVE GROWN DULL. THEIR EARS ARE HARD OF HEARING, AND THEIR EYES THEY HAVE CLOSED, LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, LEST THEY SHOULD UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEARTS AND TURN, SO THAT I SHOULD HEAL THEM.'

(16) But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear;

(17) for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

(18) "Therefore hear the parable of the sower:

(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.

(20) But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;

(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.

(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.

(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.”

Concerning this Parable of the Sower, we need to begin by asking – How many types of ground are mentioned here in this parable? That’s right, there are 4.

And they are each describing for us in relation to how the seed of the word of the kingdom was received by the various kinds of hearers.

1st – He who received seed by the wayside. (verses 18 and 19)

2nd – He who received seed on stony places. (verses 20 and 21)

3rd – He who received seed among the thorns (verse 22)

4th – He who received seed on the good ground (verse 23)

Jesus’ explanation of the ground of the first soil in the Parable –

1st – He who received seed by the wayside is the person who hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it. (vs. 19)

By the words – “he who received seed by the wayside”, what does it mean? It means that this person was present to hear the word of the kingdom preached to him, but when he heard it he didn’t understand it. It lies there in his heart and mind and he does nothing about it. He is careless with it. He does nothing about the truth that he has heard. In this regard, receiving seed by the wayside is the same as being on the broad road to destruction.

Matthew 7: 13 – “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.” “Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” Satan tries to make the broad road out as the wise way to live, and it doesn’t really matter if God’s word is followed in all of its details. Just to be generally religious, he thinks, is enough to enjoy life, have eternal life, and when he dies, go to heaven. But is this true? No, it is not true at all. It is the path to destruction.

The Inestimable Value of the word of God

The Word of God is designed by God to penetrate and to settle down into, the minds and hearts of men, and women, and children and to do a real work in them. It is designed to be received. But it cannot do this if the person does not understand it, if they do not receive it, in the sense that they believe it to be the word of God to them. Often, the unconverted people who hear the word of God, being preached to them by a man, do not grasp the preaching of God’s word is the appointed means of reaching out to them so that they might be saved. They see a man speaking to them, but they do not see that he is God’s sower. They do not see this glorious work of God, that though the preacher is a mere man, He is broadcasting the seeds of truth to all who will hear.

1st Thessalonians 2: 13 – “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.” People often do not see that God’s Holy Spirit and His blessed influences are there attending the Word preached, convicting and convincing men of sin and righteousness and judgment.

But the person listening by the wayside thinks that it is just the words of a man; that is all. He is one of the many people who have all kinds of opinions on the subject of religion. He is very casual about knowing God and the absolute truth of the Bible. He thinks that his opinions are just as good as the preacher’s. He thinks that it is just one man’s thoughts in relation to what other men think about the subject of God. He does not realize that God is speaking to him through the preaching of the Word.