

# The Evangelistic Church: The Parable of the Sower

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(Wednesday's Lesson)

## Introduction:

- A. Text: (Mt.13:1-9, 18-23; Mk.4:1-9, 13-20; Lk.8:4-8, 11-15)
- B. The parables of Jesus represent some of the most powerful stories in the Bible.
- C. A parable has aptly been described as an earthly story with a heavenly meaning.
  - 1. The parables convey the events surrounding Jesus' life and lessons.
  - 2. The "Parable of the Sower" emphasizes the need to evangelize.

## I. Man's Greatest Need

- A. Mankind Has Always Needed God for Sustenance.
  - 1. God is man's creator and sustainer of life (Gen.2:26-30; Acts 17:22-25).
  - 2. God is impartial in His blessings and love towards man (Mt.5:43-47).
- B. Man Has Always Needed God for Salvation.
  - 1. Peter's bold statement to the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:12).
  - 2. "I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior" (Isa.43:11).
  - 3. By one man's sin, sin entered into the world; and by one man's act of

obedience, eternal life is offered to those who will obey

(Rom.5:18- 19; 6:1-4).

4. The atheist famous last words, “God, help me.”

C. If Man Needs a Savior, then Man must hear as much.

1. “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

(Mk.16:15).

2. God’s plan for man to be saved involves preaching and teaching

(Rom.10:14; Mt.28:18-20).

3. The parable of the sower highlights the Christians involvement in sharing the gospel with mankind.

II. The Parable of the Sower as it Relates to Evangelism

A. The Sower.

1. Farmers and gardeners were common in Jesus’ day.

2. One who sowed seed had a sack of seed slung over his shoulder.

3. The sower would reach in his sack and sling seed indiscriminately.

B. The Seed.

1. There were various types of seeds a farmer may sow i.e. beans, grapes, wheat, etc.

2. The type of seed the gardener sows isn’t mentioned.

C. The Soil.

1. There are four types of soil mentioned in the parable (hard, rocky, thorns, and ideal soil).

2. All four types of soil were offered the seed by the sower.

### III. The Explanation of the Parable

#### A. The Sower.

1. This is the teacher/preacher who shares the Word of God (Mk.4:14).
2. Jesus commissioned his disciples to do as much (Mt.10:5-40;  
Lk.10:1-17; Mk.16:15-16; Mt.28:18-20).
3. The church evangelized even while persecuted (Acts 8:1-4).
4. It is of necessity that the church embrace the responsibility and seriousness to evangelize, as did the first century church!
5. Notice too that the sower sowed the seed everywhere.

#### B. The Seed.

1. "The seed is the Word of God" (Lk.8:11).
2. The seed is powerful (Heb.4:12).
3. The seed can have no effect on hard hearts who choose sin (Ex.8:15;  
Acts 26:24-29).

#### C. The Soil.

1. The Wayside or Road: It represents hard hearts where the Word of God can not influence. Nor will Satan allow it to be influenced (Mk.4:15).
  - a. This speaks volumes to the schemes of Satan (Eph.6:11).
  - b. The Devil is quick to respond to our response of obedience. Just like prowling lion waiting for the right moment to take his prey

down (1Pt.5:8).

2. The Rocky Ground: It represents the soul who embraced the Word at first, but when trials, tribulations, and temptations transpired; this person fell away.

a. They had “no firm root” (Lk.8:13). The soil was too shallow (Lk.18:8).

3. The Soil filled with Thorns: This too represents souls who at first received the Word of God, but the cares of the world and deceitfulness of riches choke the Word of God to the point of being unfruitful (Mt.13:22).

a. Jesus taught His disciples about priorities (Mt.6:24-34).

b. Christ prayed that while His disciples were in the world, they were not to be of the world (Jn.17:15-19).

4. The Good and Productive Soil. This represents the soul who hears the Word of God and accepts it. This soul then bears fruit (Gal.5:22-26) according to his own ability.

Conclusion: As illustrated by the parable of the sower, the Lord’s church is entirely dedicated and devoted to God, and is proactive in sharing His plan to go save man. Although the church is not responsible for the results of sowing the seed, it is still responsible for sharing and showing God’s truths to a lost and dying world!

