

Parables and Stories

The Sower and the Soils

Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

1. Is this a True Story or a Made-Up Story?

2. What is the Story?

Jesus and the disciples lived in a society where very many people were farmers or fishermen. His story here uses the very common experience of farmers to illustrate that not everyone who hears or even positively response to the message of the good news of salvation will receive eternal life. People who do not receive eternal life are described differently as those who never gave the gospel a second thought, those who liked the message but loved the pleasures of the world more, and those who were unwilling to suffer hardship because of the gospel. The people who receive eternal life are compared to the seed which was sown on the good soil which endured through the growing season so as to produce fruit.

3. Specific Questions About the Story:

A. Who is the Sower? (see: Matt 10:24-25; 13:37; John 15:20)

B. What is the Seed? (Matt. 13:19; Luke 8:11)

C. Why is this Parable so Important? (see: Mark 4:13)

D. Why Did Jesus Teach in Parables? (see: Matt 13:10-17; Mark 4:10-12; Luke 8:9-10)

4. What Do We Learn About God? (see: Matt 13:4; 28:19-20)

5. What Do We Learn About Man? (see: Mark 4:10, 16-19)