

Sowed on Good Soil

Parable of the Sower

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What We Will Learn

- God grants opportunities to every person
- To grow in him and bear fruits
- Habit and environmental influence
- Can prevent utilizing the opportunities

What We Will Learn cont'd

- Receiving the word of God
- Growing in the word
- Bearing fruit
- How faith and deed exemplify “good soil?”
- Matthew 13:1–23
- Mark 4:1–12 [Not read in session]
- Luke 8:1–16 [Not read in session]

Parable of the Sower

- Describes people in two categories
- Based on what we do with word of God
- One category flourishes and bears fruit
 - Seed falls on “good soil”
 - “Farmer” gets good harvest
- Another category fails along the way
 - Habit and environment prevent growth
 - “Farmer” does not get good harvest

Proceeding with Study

- Read Parable of the sower and explanation
- Focus on the positive behavior
- People that flourish and bear fruits

Matthew 13 (NIV)

1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.

2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.

3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed.

Matthew 13 (NIV)

4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.

6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.

Matthew 13 (NIV)

7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

9 Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Matthew 13 (NIV)

18 “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:

19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.

Matthew 13 (NIV)

20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.

21 But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

Matthew 13 (NIV)

22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.

23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

To Flourish and Bear Fruit

- Parable identifies three potential causes of failure
 - Poor understanding of message
 - Failure to connect with spiritual nourishment
 - Unable to withstand enemy competition
- Approach to fight and rise above these potential causes of failure

Understanding the Message

- Seek to hear the message
- Sow time into hearing and assimilating the message
- Cultivate companionship and presence of the Holy Spirit in your life
- Share your understanding of the word

Staying Connected

- Seek people and activities that increase understanding of the word
- Stay active in Christian fellowships
- Participate in activities that enhance spiritual growth

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another”
[Hebrews 10:24–25]

Resist Enemy

- Beware of distractions (pressure, persecution, ...)
- Don't admit influence that is contrary to the image of God
- Avoid circumstances that expose you to negative influence
- Psalms 1:1–3

Psalms 1 (NKJV)

1 Blessed is the man

Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly,
Nor stands in the path of sinners,
Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His law he meditates day and night.

Psalms 1 (NKJV)

3 He shall be like a tree
Planted by the rivers of water,
That brings forth its fruit in its season,
Whose leaf also shall not wither;
And whatever he does shall prosper.

Bearing Fruit

- Seek to make positive impact on others
- Let your Godliness shine (evident in all interactions with others)
- Let your fruit identify you as a child of God
- Matthew 7:16–20
- 2 Peter 1:5–8

Matthew 7 (NIV)

16 By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

17 Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

18 A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit.

Matthew 7 (NIV)

19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

2 Peter 1 (NIV)

5 For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge;

6 and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness;

7 and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love.

2 Peter 1 (NIV)

8 For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- You will be effective and productive if you possess these qualities in increasing measure

What We Learned

- God grants every person opportunities to know him through his message
- To flourish and bear fruits
- Understand, grow, and live in the message
- Turn to living in the image of God and stay connected with people and activities that spur you on to living in the image of God