

BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE SERMON OUTLINE

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Series on the Parables

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

⇒ **What is a Parable?**

First of all, the word parable is derived from the Greek word [*parabolay*]. When these 2 simple Greek words are combined the meaning is to **cast alongside of** or quite literally to **compare to or to compare with**. Parable then means **'to place alongside of'**. It's an illustration alongside a truth.

So, why teach in parables? The disciples wondered the same thing... Look at V. 10. Then His answer is in Vs. 11-12. Jesus says there's 2 reasons I teach in parables: **To reveal and to conceal**.

The parable of the Sower is also found in **Mark 4** and **Luke 8**. This first parable is about **'a farmer'**, usually referred to as **'a sower'**.

There are four kinds of soil. Jesus closes the parable with an exhortation: V-9 **'He who has ears, let him hear.'**

Let's hear, heed and honor the message Jesus wants to teach us today

I. THE TASK OF THE SOWER

- A. The Sower's Identity
- B. The Sower's Intentions
- C. The Sower's Investment

II. THE TREASURE OF THE SEED

⇒ (In Luke 8:11, Jesus identifies the seed as the **"Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."** Notice the treasure of the seed.)

A. It Holds Great Power— *LIFE*

B. Holds Great Promise – *MORE* Verse 8 and 23

Notice that only 25% of the seed ends up being successful. 75% didn't take. We need to understand that there's **no problem with the seed** because it is the Word of God that abideth forever and there is **no problem with the sower** because V-37 tells us that Jesus is the sower.

III. THE TESTIMONY OF THE THE SOILS

- A. **The Compacted Soil (v. 4, 19)** {This indifferent heart is pictured by 'the wayside'}
- B. **The Crippled Soil (v. 5-6, 20-21)** {This impulsive heart is pictured by stony ground}
- C. **The Crowded Soil (v. 7, 22)** {This the impure heart is in thorny places}
- D. **The Choice Soil (v. 8, 23)** {This is the legitimate /fertile heart who gets saved and indwelt with the Holy Spirit}

Finally, some seed fell onto good ground. This ground had been worked and prepared.

The only obstacle to salvation is unbelief, but anyone who is willing to accept Jesus on His terms is good soil! This soil represents the only soil among the four that pictures a saved heart. You see, when Jesus enters a life through the Gospel message, He will make His presence known beyond all doubt.

There is no point in resorting to other methods like— productions, rock music and other gimmicks. God's kingdom comes in God's way; the parable of the sower must be our guide as we simply sow the seed of the Word of God and God will then give His Increase, not ours.

We must, then, not be discouraged when there are superficial responses to our testimony or preaching. Even our Lord's ministry was not uniformly successful in this sense. We must not rush matters, pressing for professions of faith and refraining from making clear the difficult elements in the message. We must not hesitate to demand repentance.