

Study Questions  
Matthew 13 Parables – Part 3  
The Parable of the Sower  
Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> 2009

1). Explain what had happened immediately before Christ began speaking in parables and what was His purpose in speaking in parables?

2). Mt 13:1 ¶ *On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea.*

- a). Explain the symbolism of ‘the house’ and ‘the sea’.
- b). What does this tell us about who the parables are written for?
- c). What is a parable?

3). Mt 13:3 *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.*

- a). According to Christ’s explanation, who is the Sower?
- b). What does He sow?
- c). Where does He sow them?
- d). What is the stated subject of the parable of the sower?
- e). What is it that determines the type of ground each Christian is sown in?

- f). How do those sown by the wayside respond to the word of the Kingdom?
- g). What happens to them because of this?
- h). What other scriptures are there that help describe all of this?
- i). Why do you think that by the wayside is where most Christians today will find themselves?
- j). What is the final outcome for those by the wayside with regards to producing fruit for the Kingdom?

4). Mt 13:5 *"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.*

- a). What is the main difference between those by the wayside and those on stony places?
- b). How do the Christians in this location respond to the word of the Kingdom?
- c). What then happens to them because of the word of the Kingdom?
- d). What causes them to stumble when the tribulation and persecution come?
- e). What do you think it would take for someone to have a solid foundation in the word of the Kingdom?

f). How solid a foundation do you have personally and how could you make it even stronger?

g). What is the most likely place that the tribulation and persecution will come from and why would this be?

h). What is the final outcome for those on stony places with regards to producing fruit for the Kingdom?

5). Mt 13:7 *"And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.*

a). According to Christ's explanation what does the symbolism of the thorns represent?

b). What do you understand 'the cares of this world [age]' to be?

c). Which of these do you think has the greatest impact on the Church today?

d). Which of these would be the greatest danger for you personally?

e). How can you protect yourself and help protect others from these?

f). Why are riches deceitful?

g). How do you think this has impacted the 'church' in general?

h). Is God's blessing and God's approval necessarily shown in material abundance?

i). Do you personally struggle with the desire for riches?

j). What are 'the pleasures of this life'?

k). How does society in general impact the way the church responds to these?

l). What do you think is the greatest struggle for Christians in our setting with regards to the pleasures of this life?

m). What is the final outcome for those among thorns with regards to producing fruit for the Kingdom?

6). Mt 13:8 *"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!"*

a). What would the 'good ground' represent?

b). What do the Christians here do that the others don't?

c). What would this group of Christians have done to make this possible?

d). What do you think is involved in producing fruit?

e). What do you think that the different quantities of fruit teach us?

f). Why do you think the parable ends with the words recorded in v9?

7). In conclusion – How many groups of Christians are presented in this parable?

a). How many of these groups produce fruit with regards to having a place in the Millennial Kingdom?

- b). What does this teach us?
  - c). What does this mean for you personally?
  - d). In which of these four places do you think you are at this moment? And where do you want to be?
  - e). What will you need to do to get where you want to be?
  - f). How serious are you about that?
- 8). Do you have any thoughts, or comments, or questions about anything we have studied in this session?