



# The Parable of The Sower

**“But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold” (Matthew 13:8).**

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**“Who hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 13:9).**

Jesus' statement “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear” (Matthew 13:9) implies that spiritual discernment is not as common as some may think, and this is illustrated in His reason for use of parables (Matthew 13:10-17; Mark 4:11-12) - the diligent understands but the casual loses out. Teaching from a boat to multitudes on the shore (Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15), Jesus unravelled important principles about fruitfulness using an illustration on farming.

- 1) “... a sower went forth to sow” (Matthew 13:3). Similarly, we must be prepared to “Go” if we are to sow the seed of the gospel.
- 2) “The sower soweth the word” (Mark 4:14) “The seed is the word of God” (Luke 8:11). The seed were all good, but the type of soil they were sown determined their future. The gospel is inherently good but the nature of the recipient's heart determine its impact.
- 3) Lack of seriousness / diligence to understand the truth, is like leaving a treasure exposed due to ignorance of its value - it simply invites a thief to steal. This represents the seed by the way side, which got trodden down, and then devoured by birds (Matthew 13:4,19; Luke 8:5). “Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts” (Mark 4:15) “... lest they should believe and be saved” (Luke 8:12). We all have a responsibility to prevent this happening in our lives.
- 4) Superficiality is like sowing on stony places, which “had not much earth” and “had no root” - a perfect combination for disaster! Lack of roots (backbone, depth of knowledge and perception) makes the young plant to die on the onset of adverse conditions of afflictions, persecutions and tribulations (Matthew 13:5,6,20,21). “...which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away” (Luke 8:13). Immediately receiving the word “with gladness” (Mark 4:16) or quickness to germinate are not synonymous with strength, dura-

bility or longevity. These develop through growing strong roots that break, penetrate or circumvent the stony grounds. It is these roots that provide refreshing moisture and nutrients to support life / growth, and eliminate grounds for offence in spite of the scorching heat of the sun. It is worth noting that just as they were quick to receive the word, “immediately they are offended” in adverse conditions (Mark 4:17).

- 5) It is difficult to run a life's race in a sack. Competitions by lusts for other things, cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches have the potential to destroy godly living. This is synonymous to the seeds on thorny ground, which “... choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection” (Luke 8:14). Thorns grew and choke them as soon as they sprung up, preventing them from growing to maturity and fruitfulness (Matthew 13:7,22; Mark 4:7,19). This teaches us important lesson to handle the issues of this life with a light hand, and drop them, if they attempt to choke spiritual life out of us.
- 6) “But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience” (Luke 8:15). Understanding and keeping the word provide the good ground that supports growth to fruitfulness of an hundredfold, sixtyfold and thirtyfold (Matthew 13:8,23). No wonder Solomon admonished his listeners in Proverbs 4:7-9 that “Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee”.