

July 12, 2020 Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Title: The Parable of the Soil

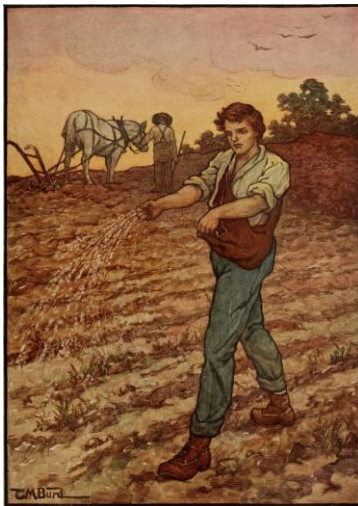
Introduction: This summer religious calendar is full of parables. And today, we are going to start with a parable of the sower.

Context: The first three verses tell us that the Lord Jesus sat beside the sea and began to teach. And the people who He taught are also an important part of the setting. We find that it was a "crowd". But what kind of a crowd, and who were they?



Interpretation: To make our entry into the parable easier, Jesus provides an instant interpretation of his analogy in v.18-23. God is the sower. His word is the seed. We are the soil.

Today, we see the sower.



Sowing is the sending forth of the God's word. The sower planted seeds in all four soils with equal care, hope, and generosity. And He does so without evaluating the quality of the soil.

Various places the seed falls = the various kinds of "hearers" of the word.

I. Seeds fell along the Path (v. 4). Path (wayside) means those who simply do not understand, and therefore can't believe the word of God when it is presented to them.

II. Seeds fell on Rocky Ground (v. 5-6). This means "superficial" believers, within whom the WORD "cannot get rooted." The Rocky soil is an example of what it means to have faith that is strong at first, but then becomes weak because of a lack of commitment, inconveniences, and persecutions.

"The heat of the sun" (13:6) may mean persecutions, troubles, inconveniences suffered by those who have taken in the word and as a result they become weak.

III. Seeds fell among thorns (v. 7). Thorns means the riches of the world (probably here not just money and the things it buys, but the totality of attractive things the world offers -- fame, power, glamor, social esteem, and neglect of the Creator in general.)

IV. Some seeds fell on good ground (v. 8). Good ground means those who are properly receptive to God's word.



Conclusion: In the sower's world wastefulness produces hope, inefficiency produces love, and profit gives way to generosity. Every part of your life has been sown with the seeds of God and you know what happens to seeds.