

# Seeds, Soils and Sons

## Chapter 14

### Audio lesson: New Testament 14



Objective: To introduce the parables of Jesus and how He used them.



*“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.”*

—Matthew 13:44-46

*Jesus said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”*

—Matthew 11:28-30

Jesus often taught in parables—simple stories that contained deep truths. One reason was that He would not be arrested for telling stories the authorities did not understand. Only those who had the Holy Spirit to teach them understood His parables. Those who were not hungry for truth could not understand them. Jesus was the absolute Master of this approach to teaching. We should always look for the central truth of each parable because Jesus’ parables are usually given to teach one primary truth.

Matthew 13 contains several of Jesus’ well-known parables, one of which was about a sower who scattered seed onto different kinds of soil. The seed represented God’s Word, and the soils represented those who hear the Word. Some who hear the gospel are like hard soil that cannot receive it. Those who give up under persecution are like rocky soil in which the seed begins to grow but before it can bear fruit, it is quickly scorched by the hot sun. Those who are distracted by the things of the world are like good soil that is filled also with weeds and thorns that do not allow fruitful plants to grow up. And finally, some are like deep, rich soil that receives the Word and produces much fruit. These are the hearers Jesus seeks.



1. True or false? A yoke is an instrument that makes it possible to carry a heavy burden.
2. True or false? Jesus makes everything easy for us.
3. True or false? Jesus promises to give us strength to be able to bear any burden in Him.
4. True or false? The Gospel of Mark has a lot of significant material that neither Matthew nor Luke contain.

*Unless otherwise noted, choose one best answer for each question.*

5. Who is primarily responsible for the spiritual life and ministry of a disciple?
  - a. God—it is all up to Him.
  - b. The disciple—it is all up to the disciple.
  - c. Both a and b are truths taught in Scripture.
  - d. Scripture does not address this issue.
6. Why did Jesus teach in parables?
  - a. To keep from getting into trouble with Roman authorities
  - b. To express deep spiritual truths in understandable ways
  - c. Both of the above
  - d. No one really knows
7. What did Jesus compare to a treasure hidden in a field?
  - a. Miracles
  - b. Silver Roman coins
  - c. The temple in Jerusalem
  - d. The kingdom of heaven

8. What is the subject of the parable of the sower?
  - a. How people respond when the Word of God is taught
  - b. How to preach the gospel effectively
  - c. How to determine the right season for sowing seed
  - d. How the kingdom of heaven will contain a lot of farmland
  
9. What must happen in a person's life for the Word of God to have an effect? (*choose all that apply*)
  - a. They must be able to understand it.
  - b. They must be persecuted.
  - c. They must respond in obedience to it.
  - d. It has an effect regardless of whether they understand it.
  
10. How does God want us to respond when we hear and receive the seed of the Word? (*choose all that apply*)
  - a. He wants us to be willing to receive and obey it
  - b. He wants us to keep it to ourselves
  - c. He wants us to understand and believe it
  - d. He wants us to be fruitful
  
11. To whom is evil attributed in the parable of wheat and tares?
  - a. The sower (God)
  - b. An enemy (Satan)
  - c. Thorns
  - d. The harvesters
  
12. When does God separate false Christians from true Christians?
  - a. As soon as He discovers them
  - b. Whenever we decide to weed them out of the church
  - c. At the final harvest
  - d. Never



them?

Of the four kinds of people who respond to the gospel in the parable of the sower, which do you think are most common? Which kind are you? What obstacles are most likely to prevent you from bearing fruit? What can you do to overcome

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Thank God that He has chosen to bear eternal fruit through the lives of His followers. Ask Him to help you be the best kind of hearer of His Word, and that He would help you sow His seed wherever you go.



## Going Deeper

1. What are the challenges the applications of The Parable of The Sower (Matthew 13) present to us when we hear the Word of God taught or preached? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What are the challenges the applications of this same parable present to us when we attempt to preach or teach the Word of God? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. How does the application of *The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares* answer the question “Where did evil come from?” How does this same parable teach us not to judge those we think are tares and those we think are wheat in the church today? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. In what ways do the applications of the parables of the *pearl of great price* and the *treasure hidden in the field* teach us that only a total commitment to God and Christ show that we understand how to value our faith in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. In *The Parable of The Sower*, what is represented by the hard ground, the rocky soil, and the tares or weeds that keep the seed from producing fruit? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. In the passage at the end of Matthew 11, what does Jesus want us to learn about His burden, His heart and His yoke? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What is the essential truth we are to learn about a yoke and, in that context, what is the yoke of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

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