

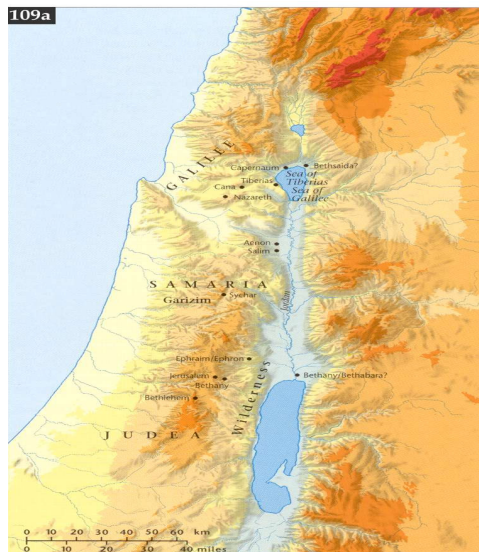
It is important to ensure fellowship with God before the study of the Word.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Isaiah 55:11 So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it will not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

Matthew 13:2 . . . Parable of the Sower

- The Lord has walked down to the Sea of Galilee from Peter's house where He healed the demon possessed man and was rejected by the religious leaders.



- The crowds were so great that He got into a boat to distance Himself from the multitude.
- Purpose of this was to teach.

POD: Large crowds are not indicative of positive volition.

Many in the crowd had rejected the four witnesses to who He was:

- ✚ God the Father
- ✚ God the Son – His own witness
- ✚ God the Holy Spirit
- ✚ John the Baptist

Now that He has been rejected, the Davidic Kingdom has been postponed.

Parable: παραβολή – PARABOLE – “To illustrate or to compare”

Definition of parable: A form of teaching in which something from the known world is used to illustrate something about the spiritual world or teach some spiritual truth or doctrine.

Matthew 13:2-3 And large crowds gathered to Him, *for this reason* (ὥστε - **HOSTE**) He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach. ³ And He spoke many things to them in parables,

Three reasons why He spoke in parables - -

1. To teach unrevealed doctrine about the spiritual kingdom to His students (**Matt 13:11-12a**)
 - They are going to have the secrets of the kingdom revealed to them because they have believed.
 - They have been given ears to hear and eyes to perceive.

Church Age POD: Faith is a prerequisite to being illuminated and taught by God the Holy Spirit.

2. To prevent the secrets from being revealed to those who had rejected Him (**Matt 13:12b-13**)

POD: Lack of faith keeps one in the dark regarding the plan of God.

3. To fulfill biblical prophecy (**Matt. 13:14-15**)

³ And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; ⁴ and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.”

CATEGORY I: Seed scattered beside the road is devoured.

Matthew 3:19 “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.”

- **Seed:** God’s Word - - gospel message or Bible doctrine
- **Sowing:** Communicating the message
- **Place of sowing:** soil analogous to the heart of the hearer

In CAT I, the soil rejects the message - - the heart does not respond in faith.

In this CATEGORY there is no spiritual life.

CATEGORY II: Seed scattered in shallow soil results in life but the life is unable to endure hardship.

Matthew 3:5-6 “Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. ⁶ But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.”

The Lord’s interpretation - -

Matthew 3:20 “The one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; [*faith in the message which results in life*] ²¹ yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary [*he does not continue with the message*], and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he falls away.”

- Seed or the message is sown in the soil of the heart.
- Heart responds in faith resulting in life - - spiritual regeneration occurs.
- This CATEGORY has no root system because no time is spent in being watered by the Word.

Is your life organized around your intake of the Word of God?

- Therefore, there is no way to endure testing and affliction.

POD: The Word of God, Bible doctrine, provides internal fortitude to endure in times of testing.

Bible doctrine provides a root system in your life!

CATEGORY III: Seed scattered in weed infested soil results in life, but the life is hindered - - that life never reaches maturity to bear fruit.

Matthew 3:7 “Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.”

Lord's interpretation - -

Matthew 3:22 “And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

- Seed or message is sown in the soil of the heart.
- Heart responds in faith resulting in life - - spiritual regeneration.
- The thorns which represent the details of life hinder spiritual advance and fruit from being produced in the life.

POD: Occupation with the details of life hinder the believer's spiritual advance and spiritual fruit production.

CATEGORY IV: Seed scattered in good soil produces fruit.

Matthew 3:8-9 “And others fell on the good soil and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

For soil to be good requires consistent watering.

Lord's interpretation - -

Matthew 3:23 “And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who **hears** the word and understands it;

Hears - ἀκούω – AKOUO - the man keeps on hearing the Word

Is your life organized around your intake of the Word of God?

And understands it – συνίημι – SUMIEMI - To gain spiritual insight into the Word

- Not only has this man organized his life around hearing the Word, he is gaining insight into it.
- “Gaining insight” requires prayer and dependence upon the Lord to reveal things to you from the Word.
- In our case we must rely on the Spirit to illuminate and teach us as we “walk by the Spirit.”

... who indeed **bears fruit** and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

bears fruit – καρποφορέω – KARPOPHOTEO – “To bear or produce fruit”

This CATEGORY of believer is the only one bearing fruit.

Fruit takes time to bear - - it does not happen overnight!

and brings forth – ποιέω – “To do, to make, or bring about”

- **Seed** – the message is sown in the soil of the heart
- **Heart** responds in faith resulting in life - - spiritual regeneration occurs.
- The heart continues to be watered by the Word.

A root system is developed to withstand testing.

The details of life are all subordinated to God’s plan.

Spiritual fruit is produced in varying degrees.

9 “He who has ears, let him hear.”

What is most important in your life?

- Keep in mind that the spiritual kingdom the Lord is talking about runs until the Davidic Kingdom is established on earth.
- The parable communicates a reality about our present age.
- God’s Word is going to be scattered across the fields of the world.

The message is received differently in each CATEGORY.

✚ CAT I: The Gospel Message will be rejected.

✚ CAT II: Faith response to the Gospel with temporary excitement about the Word, but lack of consistency results in inability to endure testing.

Emotion is not enough to carry you to the finish line of life.

✚ CAT III: Others believe, but occupation with the things of the world squelches spiritual advance.

✚ CAT IV: Others subordinate everything to the infallible Word of God and therefore continue to advance and produce spiritual fruit.

The parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Parable of the Costly Pearl

Matthew 13:44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field,

- The Lord is speaking of a spiritual kingdom NOT the Davidic Kingdom offered to Israel.
- He likens the kingdom of heaven to a hidden treasure.
- The treasure is hidden in the field and the field is analogous to the world.

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

This man finds the treasure without searching for it.

This man has no idea it is there, but as he is tilling the soil, he stumbles upon it.

This man knows that the kingdom is more valuable than all his possessions.

So he sacrifices everything to possess it.

It's more valuable than all his possessions.

⁴⁵“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls,

This merchant is intentionally seeking the kingdom of heaven - he knows it's there.

⁴⁶and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.”

The merchant sacrifices everything as well.

The farmer and merchant both knew that the treasure was more valuable than anything they had - - it had eternal value.

POD: Nothing is more valuable than our relationship with Jesus Christ.

POD: If we value that relationship above all else, we will sacrifice whatever is required to continue maturing in that relationship.

The believer who has a spiritual value system will sacrifice and subordinate anything to progress in the plan of God.

Life is about accumulating spiritual wealth – not material wealth.

The worries of the world, the deceitfulness of wealth, and the pleasures of this life are like thorns that prevent Christians from advancing and producing fruit as God has designed.

Riches will perish, clothes will become moth eaten, homes will rot, but the kingdom of heaven will endure forever.

Wealth in the midst of life's pursuits will fade away, but the Word of God will endure forever.

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.