

The Parable of the Sower

singular/plural differences underlined; Mark/Matt elements omitted from Luke in strikethrough

MARK 4.1-20 BLACK = unique to Mark	LUKE 8.4-15 BLUE = unique to Luke	MATTHEW 13.1-23 GREEN = unique to Matthew
<p>Again he began to teach beside the sea. Such a very large crowd gathered around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.</p>	<p>When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him,</p>	<p>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.</p>
<p>He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some <u>seed</u> fell on the path, and the birds came and ate <u>it</u> up. Other <u>seed</u> fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away. Other <u>seed</u> fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked <u>it</u>, and it yielded no grain. Other <u>seed</u> fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold. And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"</p>	<p>he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!" "</p>	<p>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some <u>seeds</u> fell on the path, and the birds came and ate <u>them</u> up. Other <u>seeds</u> fell on rocky ground, where <u>they</u> did not have much soil, and <u>they</u> sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, <u>they</u> were scorched; and since <u>they</u> had no root, <u>they</u> withered away. Other <u>seeds</u> fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked <u>them</u>. Other <u>seeds</u> fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"</p>
<p>When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, "To you has been given the <u>secret</u> of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven." And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable? Then how will you understand all the parables?</p>	<p>Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, "To you it has been given to know the <u>secrets</u> of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.'</p>	<p>Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered, "To you it has been given to know the <u>secrets</u> of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.' With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You</p>

		<p>will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn-- and I would heal them.' But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it.</p>
<p>The sower sows the word. These are <u>the ones</u> on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when <u>they</u> hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy. But <u>they</u> have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately <u>they</u> fall away. And others are those sown among the thorns: these are <u>the ones</u> who hear the word, but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. And <u>these are the ones</u> sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."</p>	<p>Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. <u>The ones</u> on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. <u>The ones</u> on the rock are those who, when <u>they</u> hear the word, receive it with joy. But <u>these</u> have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are <u>the ones</u> who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, <u>these are the ones</u> who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with faithful resistance.</p>	<p>"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the <u>one</u> who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such <u>a person</u> has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, <u>that person</u> immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is <u>the one</u> who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is <u>the one</u> who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."</p>