**The Parable of the Sower**

**Text: Matthew 13:1-23**

**06/02/13 P.M.**

1. **Introduction: God has a Plan (from the beginning) to establish and maintain the Kingdom (The Church). Today, let’s look at a simple fact about the Kingdom. MOST WILL NOT GET IN ON IT!**
2. **In Matthew 13 Jesus taught SEVEN PARABLES concerning “The Kingdom”:**
3. **Matthew 13:1-23 – The Parable of the SOWER.**
4. **Matthew 13:24-30 - The Parable of the WHEAT & TARES**
5. **Matthew 13:31-32 - The Parable of the MUSTARD SEED**
6. **Matthew 13:33- The Parable of the LEAVEN**
7. **Matthew 13:44- The Parable of the HIDDEN TREASURE**
8. **Matthew 13:45-46- The Parable of the PEARL OF GREAT PRICE**
9. **Matthew 13:47-50 The Parable of the NET**

**Matthew 13: 24** “…*The kingdom of heaven is likened* unto a man which sowed good

 seed in his field: but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares…”

**Matthew 13: 31** “… *The kingdom of heaven is like* to a grain of mustard seed…”

**Matthew 13: 33** “… *The kingdom of heaven is like* unto leaven,….”

**Matthew 13: 44** “… *The kingdom of heaven is like* unto a treasure hid in a field…”

**Matthew 13: 45** “… *The kingdom of heaven is like* unto a merchant man, seeking

 goodly pearls…” Sold EVERYTHING to have the Pearl of Great Price

**Matthew 13: 47** “… *The kingdom of heaven is like* unto a net, that was cast into the

sea”

**Matthew 13: 51 & 52** *“Jesus saith unto them, Have ye* ***understood*** *all these things?*

*They**say unto him, Yea, Lord. The said he unto them, Therefore every*

 *scribe which is* ***instructed unto the kingdom of heaven*** *is like unto a man*

 *that is a householder, which bringeth forth out of his treasure things new*

 *and old.”*

**UNDERSTANDS** the relationship between his NEW life and the OLD life, he will lead in the kingdom. Perhaps he refers to those who **UNDERSTAND** balanced teaching of New Testament and the Old Testament. Perhaps he refers to those who **UNDERSTAND** the NEW TEACHING (and truth) of the KINGDOM (The Church) verses the OLD TEACHING of the KINGDOM.

Jesus titles the first Parable … the “**Parable of the SOWER**” (*verse 18*)

Some say that the SOWER is GOD and the WORD is JESUS (The Gospel)

Others say the SOWER is JESUS and the WORD IS THE GOSPEL MESSAGE.

In either case … it is THE UNDERSTANDING of the WORD (The GOSPEL) is the KEY ELEMENT in GETTING IN ON WHAT THE **SOWER** is DOING!!!

Without the SOWER, there can be NO HARVEST!!!!

1. **Read Matthew 13:1-23 The Parable of The Sower**

 **“**1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. 3And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow; 4And when he sowed, some *seeds* fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: 5Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: 6And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: 8But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. 9Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. 10And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 11He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. 12For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. 16But blessed *are* your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 17For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*. 18Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. 19When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. 20But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; 21Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. 22He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. 23But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” **Matthew 13:3-23**

**The Parable of the SOWER:**

**Study Verses 3-9 & Verses 18-23 and point out the following:**

* 1. The Sower is God
	2. The SEED is the WORD of God (Jesus is the Word of God)… His truth NEVER CHANGES regardless of the soil.
	3. The Way Side soil is the Hardened Hearer (Heart) who NEVER UNDERSTAND Truth.
	4. The Birds of the Air are the Evil One (Satan).
	5. The Shallow Soil is the UNSTABLE Hearer (Heart) – Easily Converted – Easily

 Lost! Persecution keeps them from enduring!

* 1. The Sun’s Heat is the Tribulation and the Persecution.
	2. The Thorny Ground is the Hearer (Heart) that permits other things to re-empt the

 Word of God in their lives.

* 1. The Thorns are the cares, riches, and pleasures of life.
	2. The Good Ground is the Faithful Hearer (Heart) who bears fruit. The SOIL was

 receptive to the Word of God.

* 1. The Mulitple Yields are the PREPARATIONS of the Heart – Fertilization,

 Weeding, Watering, Feeding, CARE, etc. Determines the YIELD!

1. **Conclusion:**

**The fact is that EVERY PERSON in the World has one of these four HEARTS (Hearing Types). The Parable will speak to you if we listen. What does this Parable say to ME?**

**If it is Just an interesting story: We are WAY SIDE Hearers!**

**If it is Exciting and I want it, but I simply don’t want it BAD ENOUGH to put**

**up with the TROUBLE that it comes with: We are STONY Hearers!**

 **If it is Exciting and it makes sense to us, but we have too many other things to do**

**and be a part of to grow: The we are THORNY Hearers!**

 **If it is Exciting and we LOVE IT. We study it; we WANT to know as much as**

**we can; we DEEPEN our understanding of it; we WILL NOT QUIT, no matter what, and we won’t let anything stand in our way: We are GOOD SOIL Hearers!**

**OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!!!!**

 **Which one am I? PREPARE YOUR HEART to RECEIVE THE WORD!!!**