


HE TOLD STORIES

A painting depicting a man in a blue tunic and brown hat sowing seeds into a field. He is carrying a bundle on his back and has a white sack on the ground. In the background, there are several oxen pulling a plow. The sky is cloudy and the overall tone is somber.

Matt 13:1-23

Parables hide, in order to reveal...

- ⦿ A parable is an utterance that does not carry its meaning on the surface, and which demands thought and perception if the hearer is to benefit from it
- ⦿ The hearer must be paying attention, stop, take time and enter into the story if they are going to understand.
- ⦿ Parables are A TIME BOMB.....

‘Behold the Sower went out to sow’

- ⦿ All the other parables in Matt 13 begin with **‘the kingdom of heaven is like....’**
- ⦿ **Why does this parable begin the way it does?**
- ⦿ **What is Jesus doing and giving to us in this parable?**

WHAT IS COMMON IN EACH OF THE SOILS

THE PARABLE



OF THE SOWER



OR THE PARABLE OF THE FOUR TYPES OF SOIL

1. Soil – ‘heart’

2. The sower is at work

3. Word of the kingdom is sown

4. Each person ‘hears’

This is a parable about hearing The Word of the Kingdom

- 'HEAR THE PARABLE OF THE
SOWER'

Seed sown on the path (Mat 13:19)

- ⦿ Inability for the seed to get below the surface
- ⦿ The word of the kingdom didn't penetrate the surface of the heart
- ⦿ **What does it mean to 'take something to heart'?**

Seed sown on the path

- ⦿ The Word of the Kingdom wasn't 'understood'..
- ⦿ Why didn't they understand?
 - **Was it the fault of a lack of education, poverty, gender inequality, sickness, psychologically disturbed?**
 - **In Matt's Gospel what type of people are the ones where the 'Word of the kingdom' is bearing fruit?**
- ⦿ Why didn't they understand Matt 13:15

A FAT HEART

- ◎ **A heart so full and satisfied by the life of the world deafens us, blinds us, disables us to be able to listen, receive and understand the Word of the Kingdom**
- ◎ **Take heed – Jesus says ‘anyone’.....!**

SEED SOWN ON ROCKY SOIL (13:5-6)

- Seed penetrates the soil, but the roots don't go down deep.
- Immediately receives it with joy! – **NO WAITING!**
- The enthusiastic crowds following Jesus up to ch 10 – what happens
- Israel Leaving Egypt...

SEED SOWN ON ROCKY SOIL (13:5-6)

- ⦿ Immediately receives it with joy –
 - ⦿ Immediately falls away
- ⦿ **Enthusiasm based on things fitting into their plan. Suffering, rejection and persecution because of the Word of Christ - is not part of their plan!!**

No root in himself

- ⦿ They 'hear.. Receive the Word' – but do not bear fruit because he/she has no firm root in themselves, but is only temporary .
- ⦿ They are **a shallow person** they don't know what they are and therefore what they need.

They only know they need to survive.

It is only a matter of time before they discover that God's Kingdom WAY, The way of the cross is absurd and offensive nonsense and doesn't fit into their plans-

THE THORNY SOIL (13:7)

- The word penetrates the soil of the heart, the roots go down deeper. But all growth slowly comes to a halt and the seed is choked of all its promise by the overpowering thorns- and the seed is unfruitful
- My lawn...

THE THORNY SOIL

- ⦿ **Worries of this world and**
- ⦿ **The deceitfulness of wealth .**
 - We see the giants of this kingdom
 - We settle for so much less than His Kingdom!
 - **“I would buy a boat, a car, a house”**
- ⦿ Other loves other lovers – choke out our love for Christ and His kingdom.

THE GOOD SOIL (13:8)

- The Seed penetrates the soil/heart, roots go down deep, grows slowly, gradually, consistently, freely – and all the promise of the seed comes to fruition.
- ‘Hears and understands’ –**TAKES TIME**

**Never forget...our ears pick
up the sounds but we hear
with our heart – Matt 13:15**

What is the enemy to
fruitfulness?

A FAT HEART

- ◎ **A heart so full and satisfied by the life of the world deafens us, blinds us, disables us to be able to listen, receive and understand the Word of the Kingdom and return and be healed by the ministry of Jesus Christ the Son of God.**
- ◎ **BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT!**

Stop ,look and listen !

- Look! vs 3
- Listen! Vs9
- Look to what Jesus is saying and Listen to what He means! Your life depends upon this.

**The mystery of the Kingdom is given
And can be taken away.... Mark 4:24-25**

⦿ What is Jesus doing and giving to us in this parable? For those who ask...

⦿ **EARS TO HEAR!**