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PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Behold, A Sower Went Forth To Sow

Matthew, Mark & Lukes' Jesus' Parable of The Sower

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Parable of the Sower

Forward

The **Parable of the Sower** (sometimes called the Parable of the Soils) is a [parable of Jesus](#) found in the three [Synoptic Gospels](#) in [Matthew 13:1-23](#); [Mark 4:1-20](#), and [Luke 8:1-15](#).

In the story, a sower sows [seed](#) and does so indiscriminately. Some seed falls on the path (way side) with no soil, on rocky ground with little soil, and soil which contained [thorns](#), and in those cases it is lost or fails to produce a crop, but when it falls on good soil it grows, yielding thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

Jesus then (only in the presence of disciples) explains that the seed represents the Gospel (the sower being anyone who proclaims it), and the various soils represent people's responses to it (the first three representing rejection while the last represents acceptance and the extent thereof). It is notable that the sower does not do any sort of soil preparation beforehand; a possible interpretation being that God does that beforehand to the extent He chooses.

To understand the truth that is revealed in a "Parable" it is necessary to acknowledge its symbolism and the interpretation in order to comprehend what is exposed. The word "Parable" from the Greek, "*(Gr. parabole)*", a placing beside; a comparison; equivalent to", "the (*Heb. Mashal*), a similitude

In the Old Testament this is used "to denote (1) a proverb (1 Sam. 10:12; 24:13; 2 Chr. 7:20), (2) "a prophetic utterance (Num. 23:7; Ezek. 20:49), (3) an enigmatic" saying (Ps. 78:2; Prov. 1:6).

In the New Testament, (1) a "proverb (Mark 7:17; Luke 4:23), (2) a typical emblem (Heb. 9:9;" 11:19), (3) a similitude or allegory (Matt. 15:15; 24:32; Mark" 3:23; Luke 5:36; 14:7); (4) ordinarily, in a more restricted" sense, a comparison of earthly with heavenly things, "an earthly" "story with a heavenly meaning," as in the parables of our Lord."

"Teaching by allegory/symbolism has been in use from the earliest of times. A large portion of our Lord's public teaching consisted of parables. Jesus himself explains his reasons for this in his answer "to the inquiry of the disciples, "Why speakest thou to them in" "parables?" (Matt. 13:13-15; Mark 4:11, 12; Luke 8:9, 10). He "followed in so doing the rule of the divine procedures, as" recorded in Matt. 13:13. "The parables uttered by our Lord are all recorded in the "synoptical (i.e., the first three) Gospels, "Matthew, Mark, and Luke", The fourth Gospel" "contains no parable properly so called, although the" illustration of the good shepherd (John 10:1-16) has all the essential features of a parable.

The Parable of the Sower (also known as the Parable of the Four fields/Soils/hearts– (*see image symbolism*) is found in [Matthew 13:3](#); [Mark 4:3](#); and [Luke 8:5](#). After presenting this parable to the multitude, Jesus interprets it for His disciples in [Matthew 13:18-23](#); [Mark 4:13-20](#); and [Luke 8:11-15](#)

Natural Significance of the Parable

The Parable of the Sower concerns a sower who scatters seed, which falls on four different types of ground.

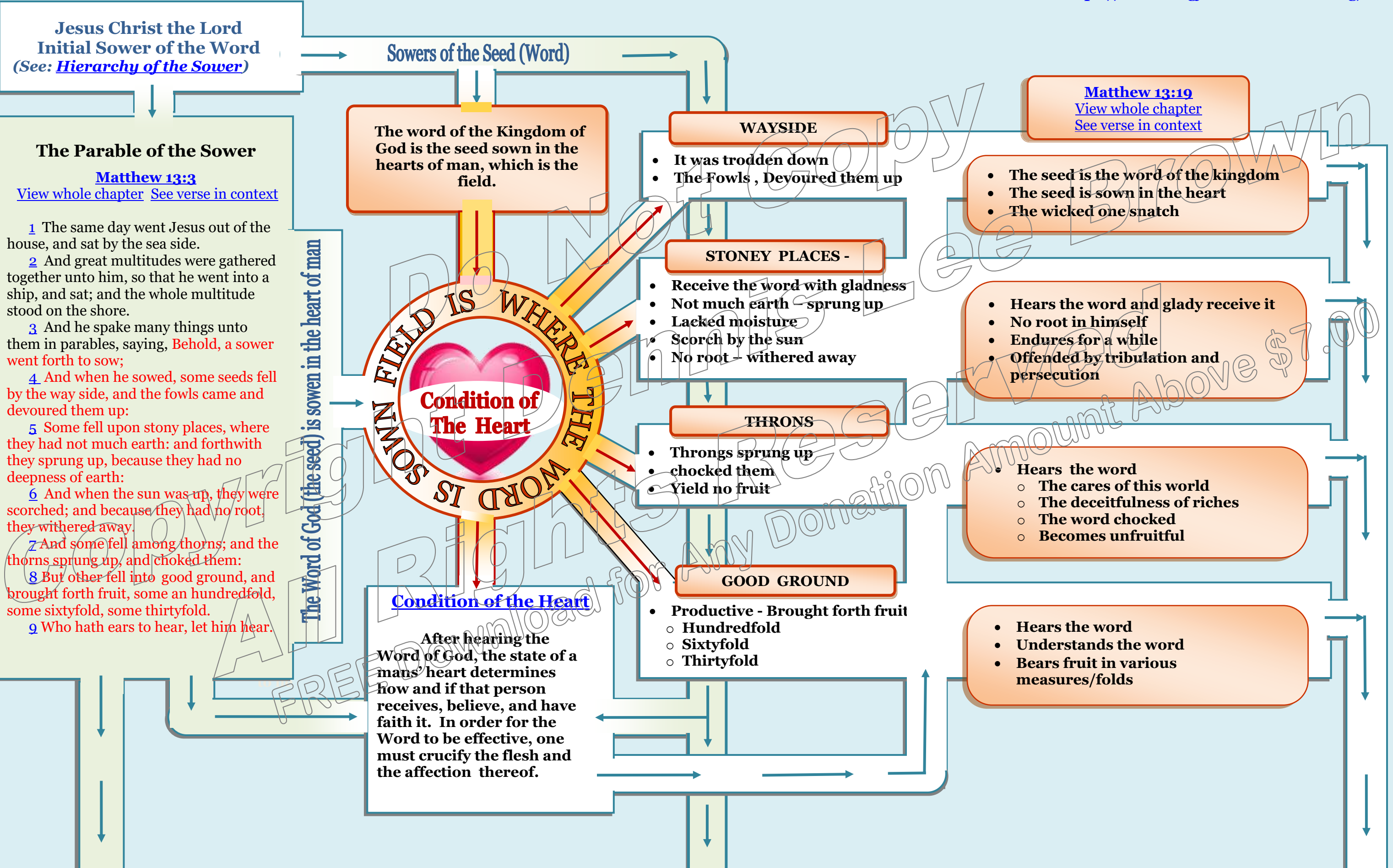
- 1) The hard ground "by the way side" prevents the seed from sprouting at all, and the seed becomes nothing more than bird food.
- 2) The stony ground provides enough soil for the seeds to germinate and begin to grow, but because there is "no deepness of earth," the plants do not take root and are soon withered in the sun.
- 3) The thorny ground allows the seed to grow, but the competing thorns choke the life out of the beneficial plants.
- 4) The good ground receives the seed and produces a large amount of fruit at different measures.

Spiritual Significance of the Parable

Jesus' explanation of the Parable of the Sower highlights four different responses to the gospel.

- 1) The seed is "the word of the kingdom."
- 2) The hard ground represents someone who is hardened by sin; he hears but does not understand the Word, and Satan plucks the message away, keeping the heart dull and preventing the Word from making an impression.
- 3) The stony ground pictures a man who professes delight with the Word; however, his heart is not changed, and when trouble arises, his so-called faith quickly disappears.
- 4) The thorny ground depicts one who seems to receive the Word, but whose heart is full of and overcome by riches, pleasures, and lusts; the things of this world take his time and attention away from the Word, and he ends up having no time for it.
- 5) The good ground portrays the one who hears, understands, and receives the Word—and then allows the Word to accomplish its result in his life. The man represented by the "good ground" is the only one of the four who is truly saved, because salvation's proof is fruit ([Matthew 13:3](#); [Matthew 13:15](#)

To summarize the point of the Parable of the Sower: "A man's reception of God's Word is determined by the condition of his heart." A secondary lesson would be "Salvation is more than a superficial, albeit joyful, hearing of the gospel. Someone who is truly saved will go on to prove it." May our faith and our lives exemplify the "good soil" in the Parable of the Sower.



Jesus Explains the Parable of the Sower

Chart Section II

-1- Matthew 13:15

[View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.
19 When 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.
20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it;
21 Yet 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.
22 He 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.
23 But 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.

- 2 - Mark 4:3

[View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)

13 And he said unto them, Know ye not this parable?
and how then will ye know all parables?
14 The sower soweth the word.
15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.
16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;
17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.
18 And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,
19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.
20 And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

-3- Luke 8:11

[View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.
12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.
13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.
14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.
15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Commentary: Consolidating The Parable of the Sower

- 1) Understand the parable of the Sower
 - g. The Sower is the Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

2) The Seed is the Word of the Kingdom, the Word of God, the Word

3) The Word is sowed in the heart of mankind
 - h. The heart is the field
 - i. The World is the field

4) Everyone hears the Word; but do not understand it and the devil & demons (*flow of the air*) immediately comes and snatches the word out of the heart lest they should believe and be saved.

5) Those receiving Seed/Word on Stony/rocky ground receives it with joy
- j. he has not root in himself (*does not become rooted and grounded in the Lord*)

k. endures in the things of God for a little while
 - 1. When time of testing and proving arises because of the Word, as time goes on, they become offended from the tribulation or/and persecution

6) Those on Thorns places, with joy receive the Word and go forth

m. The care of this world – overcome by lusting after and focus on worldliness
- a. The deceitfulness of riches, - taken over by dishonesty & deceit because)

b. Choked with cares, riches and pleasures of this life, and

c. bring no fruit to perfection.

7) The Good Ground with hear the Word with understanding
 - d. an honest and good heart
 - e. Hear and keep the Word
 - f. Bares several levels of good fruit with patience
 - i. Some thirtyfold
 - ii. Some sixtyfold
 - iii. Some hundredfold

Hierarchy of the Sower

Jesus Christ

[John 1:1](#) | [View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)

The Twelve Disciples – Apostles

[Luke 6:13](#) | [View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)
[Matthew 10:1](#) | [View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)

Simon called Peter, & brother Andrew
James Zebedees 'son, & brother John, Philip,
Bartholomew, Thomas, Mathew the Publican
James son of Alphaeus, Lebbaeus Thaddaeus,
Simon the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot – the betrayer

Gifts to Men for the Ministry
5 Fold Ministry

[1 Corinthians 12:28](#)
[View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)
[Ephesians 4:11](#)
[View whole chapter](#) | [See verse in context](#)

Apostles

Prophets

Evangelist

Teachers

Pastors

Church
Members

Witness

Summary

The parable of the sower is explained by Jesus in [Mathew 13: 18- 23](#), [Mark 4:13](#) & [Luke 8:11](#) above and it pictures the whole course of the dispensation of “Grace”, portraying reception of the Word of God (*the Seed*) in different heart of man and the results following. It is vitally important as to how one comprehends and allows the Word to take root in his/her life to become fruitful.

The “**heart**” is where the “seed” is sown, which is the “**field**” wherein the seed grows, or in many cases does not germinate to produce fruit.

The “**Way Side**” is hard paths, unfertile bare fields, which are not prepared to receive see, and when they are planted herein, the seed is devoured *plucked up* by the “**fowls**” (*birds, meaning demon spirits and devils*) of the air. The Devil stills the Word of God out the heart to prevent a person from believing and getting saved (see [Mark 3:15](#), [Luke 3:12](#)).

The “**Stony – Rocky**” are places where rocks & stones prevented the seed to be buried deep into the soil, and because they had a lack of fertile soil, by and by they could not grow to maturity and produce fruit. These hearts received the Word/Seed with gladness and joy. (*They believed and got saved*) even though, they had no root in themselves (*they are shallow Christians, not rooted and grounded in the Lord*) when affliction or persecution arose because of the Word they became “**offended**” and in time of temptation they backslide.

The “**thorns**” are those who also with gladness receive and believe the Word, but

- a) the cares of this world, lust of the eye
- b) the deceitfulness of riches, Pride of life
- c) the lusts of other things , lust of the flesh

entering in, choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. This heart condition allows the other things to take place of the Word and it is suffocated to death.

The “**Good**” heart is glad to hear thr Word, believes the Word and applies the Word to himself. This is a good, honest heart and through longsuffering – Patience, brings forth various measures of fruit

Image Symbolism & Representations

The imagery in the parable is synonymous to that of a framer planting his field for a harvest of crops.

Symbol	Represents
Field	Heart of People
Soil	Ground - Earth
Seed	Word of God
Heart	Where the Seed/Word is sown
Fowl	Wicked One – Demons/Devils
Earth	Fertile Soil

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The chart in this document size is “Tabloid” 17w x 14h inches with a 0.05 margin, rotated to “landscape”. Setup the printer according using the correct size paper. However, if you reduce the image size of the chart page by 50% (8.5 x 7) it will print on a “letter” size page, rotated to landscape position.

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