

The Parable of the Sower

What is the Difference in the Kingdom of Heaven & the Kingdom of God?

Lets look at the very same parable in all three of the Synoptic Gospels cf:

Matthew 13:11 He 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.

Mark 4: 11 And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all [*these*] things are done in parables:

Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

So there is absolutely no difference in the terms, Mark and Luke refer to it as the Kingdom of God and Matthew refers to it as the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Hebrew's were children of nature and children of the land.

To fully appreciate the Old Testament nature literature you must understand their point of view.

With them secondary causes did not exist; only the primary cause; various manifestations of nature were personifications of God.

The sun, moon and stars were His witnesses.

The thunder and storms were His voice.

The winds were His Messengers and the earthquakes were sounds of His footsteps.

He clothed Himself in the garments of light and rode upon the clouds as His chariot. The whole earth was filled with His glory and immediate presence.

By the time of Jesus the Jews had lost their former interest and love of nature.

The interest of the Scribes, Pharisees and doctors of the Law had begun to rest in trivial traditions, superficial forms of temple rituals and purity.

Today in our modern day city life the display and works of men so hem us in that we can hardly see beyond the street in which we live.

We are so completely occupied in the affairs of men, that it is no wonder that we have so little of God in our lives, when we know and see so little of what God has made.

In a Psalm David could say:

Psalm 8:1 O LORD our Lord, how excellent *is* thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens.

Psalm 8:3-4 When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; 4 What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

In the 7 parables of Matthew 13 Jesus calls us back to the natural examples of nature to show us how natural and spiritual the Kingdom of God works.

Matthew 13:1-2 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. 2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

The Hearing Heart

JESUS receives unprecedented popularity, *great multitudes come.*

GOD speaks and we have the responsibility to listen.

Had these people used their GOD given hearing? How serious were they?

Matthew 13:3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;

A parable is a comparison or a similitude where one thing is compared to another ... especially whereby spiritual things are better understood.

A parable is literally something laid alongside of another thing to compare it or explain it.

In the New Testament a parable is an illustration drawn from natural thing to instruct us in spiritual things.

Those who heard Jesus could see in their memory and imaginations the common occurrence of a sower casting seeds to the ground.

Not all the multitude attending Jesus's ministries were for real ... few who heard Him would bring forth fruit to perfection. Thee same is true today with the preaching the Gospel among men.

The *sower* is JESUS (v: 37); the *seed* is the Word (v: 19); the *earth* is the heart (v: 19).

GOD IS SPEAKING THROUGH THE MESSIAH

Hebrew 1:1-2 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds

Is anybody listening?

(A) The two parts to any communication are: What's said and what's heard.

(B) Hearing is judged on the basis of what's said being put into action by the hearer.

(C) The Pharisees are listening, but do they hear?

(D) Jesus is concerned about the hearing capacity of our heart.

The Hebrew word *heart equals* the intellect or mind, the emotions and the will of a person.

The Word must thunder through all aspects of our heart!!!

Matthew 13:4 And when he sowed, some [*seeds*] fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:

The way side is the hard beaten path where no plow has broken up the ground.

Matthew 13:5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:

The stony places have a thin layer of earth with rock beneath.

Matthew 13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Matthew 13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:

Thorns is where the ground has been plowed up, but the weeds have not been cleared away.

Matthew 13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

This where the earth is deep and the weeds have all removed.

Matthew 13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Let every person who feels the need to be instructed about his souls welfare pay attention.

God is speaking through the Messiah and we have a responsibility to listen.

Matthew 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Matthew 13:11 He 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.

Concerning the things of the scheme of salvation which was being revealed was prophetic concern the future state of the Church of Christ is now expressed in parables.

The apostles as first preachers of the Gospel to sinners are also the writers of the New Testament Where by people thou out history will be saved.

... but to them it is not given ...because there is gross, earthly and sensual

The Apostles were selected to receive full instruction of the gospel. These were mysteries to others, but plain truths to them.

Matthew 13:12 For 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.

It is a natural law that those who have wisdom to listen shall learn more and those who refuse to hear the word will become less and less spiritual.

This is also an illustration that he who processes much or is rich receive presents to curry their favor while a natural law that poor men who have little may be easily preyed on and lose his little.

Matthew 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

**Parables are to lead them into a proper knowledge of God.
Jesus used natural representation of spiritual truths.**

Because Seeing the miracles of Christ they see not

Because hearing the doctrine of Christ they hear not so as to profit unto salvation

Neither do they understand or have heart touched by it.

Matthew 13:14 And 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:

The Greek properly translated means again fulfilled.

It was fulfilled in the time of Isaiah and it was again filled in the time of Christ.

These awful words will again be fulfilled for us if we take not the warning.

Matthew 13:15 For 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.

Become fat, inattentive, stupid, and insensible, they are half asleep while the son of God is preached to him.

Totally closed their eyes to the light of God.

It is deplorable to be sick unto death, yet refuse to be cured.

Isaiah 6:9-10 And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. 10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.

Isaiah 6:11-12 Then said I, Lord, how long? And he answered, Until the cities be wasted without inhabitant, and the houses without man, and the land be utterly desolate, 12 And the LORD have removed men far away, and *there be* a great forsaking in the midst of the land.

Matthew 13:16 But blessed [*are*] your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

To the Apostles Jesus opens the truth of the Old Testament and explains the mysteries dimly seen by the ancient prophets.

The apostles received an increase of knowledge and wisdom with every miracle Jesus performed, every sermon He preached and every lesson He taught.

Matthew 13:17 For 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*].

The Hebrew prophets looked to the future of the coming of the Messiah, but the Apostles had received a fuller knowledge, greater gifts and more excellent promises than the Jews had received. Jesus said, cf:

John 8:56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw *it*, and was glad.

Moses looking to that future day made the right choice:

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; 25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; 26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.

Peter could say of the Old Testament prophets and the Christian dispensation:

I Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace *that should come* unto you: 11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. 12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have

preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Matthew 13:18-19 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.

The person who hears does not let the word into his heart.

Not all three evangelist each use a different word to describe the enemy.

Mark 4:15 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.

Luke 8:12 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.

Matthew calls him the “wicked one”

Mark calls him “Satan”

Luke calls him “the devil”

Revelation 12: 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

V:19 The Hard Hearted Hearer – The Intellectual Disciple

(A) Distorted thinking about GOD, ritualism, customs, practices They just can't put it together and understand. Legalism

(B) Marble hearted disciples who have their own ideas about GOD. Baptized with a baptism of holy fervor instead of remission of sins – refuse to follow the light that they have been given.

I John 3:11-12 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, *who* was of that wicked one, and slew

his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

(C) The path of their heart is hard from past foot, hoof, and wheel and the seed cannot take root.

With each failure and rejection, hard defense barriers have been erected

The one who lays the word to heart and obeys it does all that he needs to do to be saved.

Hebrews 4:1-11 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left *us* of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. 4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. 5 And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into my rest. 6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief: 7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. 8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. 10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his. 11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Hebrews 10:38-39 Now the just shall live by faith: but if *any man* draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 10:39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

(D) This kind of person has never allowed Jesus to deal with their emotions (feelings) or their will (life's daily practices).

They have never really come to Jesus.

John 6:37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

Luke 6:46-49 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? 47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and

digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat

V:20-21 Shallow Hearted Hearer - The Emotional Disciple

Matthew: 13:20-21 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.

(A) A Heart of bedrock covered over with a thin layer of soil.

A Joyful beginning but they are like a tire with a slow leak ...

(B) The seed is planted but the root soon reaches rock where it has no nourishment.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

James 1:23-26 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. 26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain

(C) We must love God with our minds and our lives as well as our feelings.

Matthew 13:22 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.

V: 22 The Crowded Hearted Hearer – The Carnal Sinful Disciple

While the rains lasts both the thorns and the good seed grows, but when the rains ceases the bad seed prevails and the good is destroyed.

(A) God is demanding of us absolute loyalty and first place in everything in our lives – the thorns are sin.

(B) This disciple has no lives – thorns are sin.

I John 3:1-3 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

(C) GOD wants to reign supreme in your heart

Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

(D) Can you honestly thank GOD for your pleasures in life while you are doing them. If not they are sin.

I John 5:17-19 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death. 18 We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. 19 *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches are in constant warfare with good.

I Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows

Matthew 13:23 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.

V:23 The Christian Heart A True Disciple of Christ

A Luke 8:15 amplifies Matthew's account "honest and good hearted, having heard the word, keep it..."

Luke 8:15 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.

B. Understand

I Kings 3:9 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.

C. Fruit both souls and Christian Character

Souls:

John 15:1-8 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. 2 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. 3 Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. 4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. 6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. 8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Christian Character:

Galatians 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. 24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Now comes the Parable of the Tares tares = Greek *darnel* or false grain.

Matthew 13:24-30 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

Parable of Leaven

Matthew 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Matthew 13:34-35 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: 35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Psalm 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Matthew 13:36-43 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. 37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; 38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked [*one*]; 39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels. 40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world. 41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;³ 42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and

gnashing of teeth. 43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

Parable of the Treasure Hidden in a Field

Matthew 13:44-50 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. 45 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: 46 Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. 47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: 48 Which, when it was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the good into vessels, but cast the bad away. 49 So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, 50 And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Sources: KJV, theWord.com, Clark's Commentary, Coffman's Commentary, B.W. Johnson's People's N.T. Commentary