

The Parable of the Sower
Matthew 13:1-23
Key Verse: 13:23

"But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

1. Read verse 1-3. While Jesus was in the house talking with the crowd, who had come seeking to talk with him? What did he say about his disciples? (12:49,50) How did the crowd grow? Where did he go? How did he manage and teach the large crowd? What is a parable?

2. Read verses 4-9. Where did the seed scattered by the farmer fall? What happened to the seed that fell on the path? Why did the seed that fell on rocky places sprout quickly, then wither? What happened to the seed that fell among thorns? The seed that fell on good soil?

3. Read verses 10-13. What was the disciples' question? What was Jesus' answer? To whom are the secrets of the kingdom given? How are disciples different from the crowds who come to Jesus? Who can understand the parables? Why did the disciples ask questions? Why could the crowd not understand?

4. Read verses 14-15. What did Isaiah prophesy? (13:14-15; Isa 6:9-10,13) How is this prophecy fulfilled in Jesus' day? (Mt13:13) Read 13:16-17. In what way are the disciples like the holy remnant of Isaiah (Isa 6:13)?

5. Read verses 18--19. What is the seed? What is the seed sown along the path? Who were path-like people? Who are path-like people today?(or do we all have times of being like a path?) Read verses 20-21. What is rocky heart soil? What happens to seed which fall there? What does the hot sun represent? (6,21)

6. Read verse 22. What happens to the seed that falls on a thorny heart? What do the thorns represent? Read verse 23. How is the good-soil heart different from the other three? How can soil become good? How can heart soil become fruitful?