



Comprehending the words of Jesus Christ in the Context of the First Century

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The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Firstly, let review the parable Christ spoke to His many disciples from the Sea of Galilee:

From the King James Version Bible. Also view the Basic English Version on Pg. 4

Gospel of Matthew, The • Chapter 13

¹ 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. ³ And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying,

Behold, a sower went forth to sow; ⁴ And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: ⁵ Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: ⁶ And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: ⁸ But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. ⁹ Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

¹⁰ And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? 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. 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. ¹³ Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 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: 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. ¹⁶ But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. 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.

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.



Henceforth, while some Christians may be sincere in their beliefs and/or their desire to learn and obey God, occasionally becoming overly-eager, without a strong root system and fellow companions in faith turn to in times of need, they fall apart once encountering resistance.

Sometimes people like so, will fall away as they commence experiencing pain because they believe that following Jesus should position them above the reach of any opposition, but this thought process only displays their own ignorance in the gospels. As Christ said, “the world will hate you because it hated Me first.”

Finally, let's examine verse 7:

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

The thorns were commonly found in the corners of the field where the plows couldn't reach. Naturally, when learning the word, one must turn-over his/her will into the hands of God; and this is accomplished through the Holy Spirit. Our failure to separate faith from the evils of this world, will always lead to worldly temptations taking us over and a victory for the devil.

Jesus may have supplied us with a basic explanation of His wonderful and timeless parable, but when placing His words into the context of the people's comprehension in that era, it delivers us a richer understanding of the parable. We become engulfed in the first century world and can place our minds more in line with the actual disciples of Christ. We may be Christians of the twentieth century, though, we remain disciples of Jesus Christ.



Shaun Prario (Verity Outlet)





Basic English Version

Matthew 13:1-23

On that day Jesus went out of the house and was seated by the seaside.² And great numbers of people came together to him, so that he got into a boat; and the people took up their position by the sea.³ And he gave them teaching in the form of a story, saying, A man went out to put seed in the earth;⁴ And while he did so, some seeds were dropped by the wayside, and the birds came and took them for food:⁵ And some of the seed went among the stones, where it had not much earth, and straight away it came up because the earth was not deep:⁶ And when the sun was high, it was burned; and because it had no root it became dry and dead.⁷ And some seeds went among thorns, and the thorns came up and they had no room for growth:⁸ And some, falling on good earth, gave fruit, some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times as much.⁹ He who has ears, let him give ear.¹⁰ And the disciples came and said to him, Why do you say things to them in the form of stories?¹¹ And he said to them in answer, To you is given the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.¹² Because whoever has, to him will be given, and he will have more; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.¹³ For this reason I put things into the form of stories; because they see without seeing, and give ear without hearing, and the sense is not clear to them.¹⁴ And for them the words of Isaiah have come true, Though you give ear, you will not get knowledge; and seeing, you will see, but the sense will not be clear to you:¹⁵ For the heart of this people has become fat and their ears are slow in hearing and their eyes are shut; for fear that they might see with their eyes and give hearing with their ears and become wise in their hearts and be turned again to me, so that I might make them well.¹⁶ But a blessing be on your eyes, because they see; and on your ears, because they are open.¹⁷ For truly, I say to you that prophets and upright men had a desire to see the things which you see, and saw them not; and to have knowledge of the words which have come to your ears, and they had it not.

¹⁸ Give ear, then, to the story of the man who put the seed in the earth.¹⁹ When the word of the kingdom comes to anyone, and the sense of it is not clear to him, then the Evil One comes, and quickly takes away that which was put in his heart. He is the seed dropped by the wayside.²⁰ And that which went on the stones, this is he who, hearing the word, straight away takes it with joy;²¹ But having no root in himself, he goes on for a time; and when trouble comes or pain, because of the word, he quickly becomes full of doubts.²² And that which was dropped among the thorns, this is he who has the word; and the cares of this life, and the deceits of wealth, put a stop to the growth of the word and it gives no fruit.²³ And the seed which was put in good earth, this is he who gives ear to the word, and gets the sense of it; who gives fruit, some a hundred, some sixty, some thirty times as much.

