



## **“The Word, The Wicked One, The World & The Winner!”**

### **MATTHEW Chapter 13:1-23**

**Introduction:** Chapter 13 is a series of seven parables. The word **parable** means, “to cast alongside.” A parable is an *earthly saying with a heavenly meaning*. These parables are also known as *the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven*.

- **The order of these parables are as follows:**

- (1) *The parable of the sower (v1-23);*
- (2) *The parable of the tares among the wheat (v24-30);*
- (3) *The parable of the mustard seed (v31-32);*
- (4) *The parable of leaven (v33-43);*
- (5) *The parable of hidden treasure (v44);*
- (6) *The parable of the pearl of great price (v45-46);*
- (7) *The parable of the dragnet (v47-51).*

- **INSIGHT:** These parables proclaim the future of the church, beginning with Jesus casting the seeds of the *Word of God* into the hearts of humanity, yet, within the growth of Christianity up to our present day we find *good and bad fruit, sound and corrupt doctrine, the righteous in Christ and apostate institutionalized religion*. Jesus declares that a false church will be commingled with the true church at the end of the age.

- **Let’s first learn the parable of the sower (v1-23):**

> **(v1-9) Jesus Proclaims “The Parable of the Sower”**

(v1-9) A “sower” is a farmer going forth casting seed to cultivate and reap a harvest!

- **Observe four places where the seed fell and its results:**

(1) (v4) Birds snatching the seeds up before they take to the earth.

(2) (v5-6) Some seed fell on stony ground. It starts to grow upward and not downward unable to receive moisture from the soil, the plant lives for a short time, then dries up and dies from the heat of the sun.

(3) (v7) Other seed fell among thorns and without cultivation the weeds overcame the good seed and killed the plant.

(4) (v8) But others fell on moist fertile soil and brought forth a harvest of 100, 60 and 30-fold. Think about the reproduction!

> **(v10-17) Jesus Declares the Problem with the People**

(v10-13) Why did Jesus speak in parables?

These parables became a proof text of the true followers of Christ, those who want to draw close to God in revelation and understanding. The majority were there for self-satisfaction, self-gratification, self-assurance, and possibly for sheer entertainment. A true disciple would desire to learn the meaning of the story.

- **Mysteries of the kingdom - A mystery is a spiritual truth understood only by divine revelation.** You might say it’s a sacred secret unveiled to those who desire to know the Lord and obey Him. In the New Testament there are eleven mysteries to be uncovered, discovered, and delivered to others.

**- Dear Christian, do you know what you have in abundance?**

Paul writes in 1 Timothy 1:14-15 – *And the grace of our Lord was exceedingly abundant, with faith and love which are in Christ Jesus. This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*

Peter writes in 1 Peter 1:3-5 - *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*

Jesus said in John 10:10 - *I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

(v14-17) Isaiah prophesied that when the Messiah would come the people would not respond:

(1) *Hearing, but not understanding;*

(2) *Seeing, but not perceiving;*

(3) *Their hearts have grown dull;* the Greek word is *pachuno* which means *thick or calloused*.

This speaks of an unwillingness to hear, to see, and to receive.

- Verse 16 reveals our hearts; whether we are blessed or bored with the teachings of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. *“Blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear”*

**- King David encourages all to embrace and apply the Word of God for our benefit in Psalm 19:7-11 -**

*The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul;*

*The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;*

*The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;*

*The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

*The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;*

*The judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.*

*More to be desired are they than gold,*

*Yea, than much fine gold;*

*Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

*Moreover by them Your servant is warned,*

*And in keeping them there is great reward.*

- Remember what Peter declared in 1 Peter 2:2-3 - *as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.*

**> (v18-23) Jesus Teaches the Purpose of “The Parable of the Sower”**

(1) The SOWER is the WITNESS;

(2) The SEED is the WORD OF GOD;

(3) The SOIL is the HEART.

**> (v19) This is the person with a HARD HEART!**

Jesus says, *“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it.”*

*“Not understand it” in the Greek is mee sunientos, which means they choose not to understand, a denial of truth. The “wicked one” is the devil.*

- The knowledge of God is “sown” in every human heart - Romans 2:14-16 - *for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the*

*law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them) in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.*

**1 John 3:8 - He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil;**

**John 3:19-21 - And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who DOES THE TRUTH comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."**

- The "**wayside**" is a hardened pathway that is used to walk through the fields. Multitudes walk through life with a hardened heart towards God, and when Jesus Christ is heard they choose not to allow their hearts to become fertile soil, thus, the devil snatches away the seed and replaces it with sin, false religions, ideologies, and self.

**> (v20-21) This is the person with a SHALLOW HEART!**

- The "**stony places**" speaks of a shallow heart; shallow soil on top of stone. This person hears, is attracted for a while, but when "*tribulation or persecution arises because of the word they stumble (or are offended).*"

- The word *stumble (offended)* in Gk. is *skandalizo*, which means to **entrap, i.e. trip up, or entice to sin, apostasy**. Apostasy is generally defined as the determined, willful rejection of Christ and the Word of God (Heb 10:26-29; John 15:22).

- The word *tribulation* in Gk. is *thlipsis*, which is **pressure**; whether it is peer pressure, worldly or fleshly pressure.

- People will also walk away from Christ due to **persecution**. Notice the seed went in, but has **no root**. We are told in **Ephesians 3:17-19** - *that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height — to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.* (Also, **Colossians 2:6-10**.)

**> (v22) This is a person with a WORLDLY HEART!**

- **Thorns are represented in Scripture in the following ways:**

**(1) as a curse - Gen 3:17-18 - "*Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you*"**

**(2) as a crude and cruel crown - John 19:2-3 - *And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.***

**(3) as heading to Hell - Hebrews 6:7-8 - *For the earth which drinks in the rain that often comes upon it, and bears herbs useful for those by whom it is cultivated, receives blessing from God; but if it bears thorns and briers, it is rejected and near to being cursed, whose end is to be burned.***

- **What represents these thorns that are CHOKING OUT THE WORD OF GOD in someone's heart?**

(1) **The cares of this world** - 1 John 2:15-17 says, *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.*

(2) **What about the deceitfulness of riches?** 1 Timothy 6:6-10 - *Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

- Jesus says that these become *unfruitful* (ref. John 15:1-8). One commentator writes, "This explains why some "believers" do not last: Their faith was weak their understanding was meager, and their decision was not sincere. It is possible to "believe" and yet not be saved (John 2:23-25). Unless there is fruit in the life, there is not saving faith in the heart."

(v23) **We have seen the hardened heart, the shallow heart, and the worldly heart. Let's discover the fruitful heart!**

- ***The fruitful heart is fertile soil for the Word of God. Your heart has been broken up by the love of Jesus Christ, you desire to learn His Word, and you now live according to His will.***

- **What is this fruit that we are to produce a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty?**

- (1) Fruit is the *test of true salvation* (Matthew 7:16);
- (2) Fruit *includes holiness* (Romans 6:22);
- (3) Fruit reveals *Christian character* (Galatians 5:22-23);
- (4) Fruit is *good works* (Colossians 1:10);
- (5) Fruit is *winning others to Christ* (Romans 1:13);
- (6) Fruit is *sharing what we have* (Romans 15:25-28);
- (7) Fruit is *praising God* (Hebrews 13:15).

- ***If a plant is to bear fruit, it must be rooted in fertile soil (a repentant heart) and exposed to plenty Sunshine through the Word of God! Let's reproduce 100 – 60 – 30-fold!!!***

**LET'S GO FOR GOD!**