

## Parables - Week 3

### The sower and the end product

#### Luke 8:4-8 (NIV2011)

<sup>4</sup> While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable:

<sup>5</sup> “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.

<sup>6</sup> Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

<sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

<sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Nice story, we can work that out. And notice Jesus is saying just that. **Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”**

MM simples!

But lets do the context thing again. (Hey here the context comes after the parable!!)

#### Luke 8:9-15 (NIV2011)

<sup>9</sup> His disciples asked him what this parable meant.

<sup>10</sup> He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “ ‘though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’”

<sup>11</sup> “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

<sup>12</sup> Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

<sup>13</sup> Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

<sup>14</sup> The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

<sup>15</sup> But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

MMM look at

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to others I speak in parables, so that, “ ‘though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.’ ”

Jesus is saying some people don't get it. ( no matter how plain we think it is.)

Jesus is also inferring that parables are in part hiding from the “average” person some stuff.

Is this fair?

Now let's see how Jesu unpacks this.

1. The seed is the word of God (v11)
2. The path is those who hear (v12)
3. Some hear and the devil takes them away. (So they wont believe) (v12)
4. The rocky ground is are those who hear it and believe BUT don't go anywhere with it. (v13)
5. There are those who fell in among the thorns and they get Jesus choked out of them (life getting too busy etc) (v14)
6. The seed gets to the good soil and Christian life happens for them. ( They reproduce is the idea.) This is missional stuff.

Now, while we will look primarily at the parables in Luke's record. Sometimes the other accounts in Matthew and Mark and John give us a slightly different take.

Look at Matthew 13.

#### **Matthew 13:8-9 (NIV2011)**

<sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

<sup>9</sup> Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

Notice Matthews account includes some figures. Some will reproduce heaps, others not so much but they will reproduce.

I read somewhere that “If you can understand the parable, the expectation is that you will understand the information that you are part of the reproduction process.”

That's what the parable is about.