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## The Kingdom Parable of the Sower.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

# The Kingdom Parable of the Sower.

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## Topics.

- A sower went out to sow.
- Birds devoured the seed.
- Sown in the heart.
- Rocky ground.
- Thorny ground.
- The cares of this world.
- Good soil.
- Thirtyfold, sixtyfold and a hundredfold.
- Ears to hear.
- No-one buys a candlestick to hide its light.

**NOTE:** this parable is also in (Mark 4:3-9) (Luke 8:4-8).

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## A SOWER WENT OUT TO SOW

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- **Matthew 13:1-3:** That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow.

Though Jesus spoke this parable to the multitudes, he only explained it to the twelve apostles.

The parables of the Lord are designed to do two things:

1. To reveal the path to God, salvation and eternal life to those with a right, humble and receptive heart attitude.
2. To conceal the way to salvation from those with a wrong and prideful, egotistical and unreceptive heart attitude.

The sower in this parable can apply to Jesus, the apostles, the disciples or to anyone brother and sisters in Christ who shares the Gospel message with others.

- Since Jesus himself explains this parable we will look at each verse separately and then look at the explanation he gave to the apostles.

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## BIRDS DEVoured THE SEED

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- **Matthew 13:4:** And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.

Jesus explanation:

- When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path (Matt. 13:19) (Parallel passages Mark 4:14-15 and Luke 8:11-12).

Luke in his account of the same parable tells us the seed and the word of the Kingdom refers to the word of God that leads to salvation and eternal life (Luke 8:11-12). This means that Jesus is not talking about every doctrinal teaching from Genesis to Revelation, but those Scriptures that show a sinner the path to eternal life. Certainly, Jesus in some of his teachings does refer to the Old Testament Scriptures, but the focus is not on teaching them, but using them to prove to unbelieving and doubting Jews that he is the one the prophets said was to come and that the Old Testament Scriptures speak of.

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## THE EVIL ONE, SATAN AND THE DEVIL

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The evil one is called Satan in Marks account and the devil in Luke's account of this parable. These three titles simply apply to whatever it is that entices a believer away from Christ and hinder their growth in the Lord. It could a family member, a friend or a work colleague who talks them out of their faith or anyone who persecutes them or the titles can refer to their own pride, ego, ambition or cravings for the riches and wealth of this world or their desire for its many pleasures and luxuries. For further information on Satan and the devil see the titles:

- Satan.
- Devil.
- In, Satan and his Family (ONE WEBSITE MENU).

**NOTICE:** the reason they fell away was because they did not understand what they were accepting or committing their life to. This may explain why so many fall away when they are enticed to make a decision for the Lord by being spiritually and emotionally manipulated by clever oratory, stories and speech making while their mind is being influenced with music.

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## SOWN IN THE HEART

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The expression, "sown in the heart," shows that at this present time the Kingdom of God is a spiritual Kingdom established by faith and love in the heart and mind of every faithful brother and sister in Christ, this spiritual Kingdom is manifested outwardly in love, compassion, grace, mercy and forgiveness toward others and good works and collectively through the faithful churches throughout all the nations of the world.

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## THE ROCKY GROUND

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- **Matthew 13:5-6:** Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil. <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. (Parallel passages Mark 4: 5-6 and Luke 8:6).

Jesus explanation:

- As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution (Luke adds, temptation) arises on account of the word (Mark adds, they are offended) immediately he falls away (Matt 13:20). (Parallel passages Mark 4:16-17 and Luke 8:13).

A natural seed planted on rocky ground has to be enormously strong and resilient to survive since the soil is so shallow and lacks moisture its roots cannot take hold on anything solid, likewise when the Gospel message of salvation is planted in a heart that lacks integrity, reliability, commitment, loyalty, steadfastness and faithfulness, it has no solid foundation to take

root in and therefore when persecution, hardship and troubles come it is easier to give the faith away than endure. This type of person is enthusiastic and easily excited they are very joyful and emotional at hearing the word of God, but their commitment to the Lord is only superficial and their depth of faith, surrender and character are lacking in any form of strength of integrity toward the Lord. They endure in the faith so long as it suits their lifestyle and benefits them in some manner (i.e., spiritually, mentally, emotionally etc.), but as soon as it places hardship on their life or does not suit their own personal goals and ambition, they turn from the Lord to go their own way.

**NOTE:** this does not mean that everyone who receives Christ with overwhelming joy and excitement is going to fall away, quite the contrary, most who truly make an honest confession of faith will be full of joy, even the angels in heaven rejoice when one sinner finds eternal life in the Lord. This is the most glorious moment of any person's life because it means they have gone from been destined to the darkness of the grave and death to eternal life and everlasting glory. The problem is not being emotionally joyful we know this because the Scriptures teach that the Kingdom of God is "Righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 14:17) the problem is not being joyful, but the heart condition.

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## THE THORNY GROUND

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- **Matthew 13:7:** Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them (Mark adds, and they yielded no fruit). (A parallel passage is in Mark 4:7 and Luke 8:7).

Jesus explanation:

- As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches (Mark adds, the lusts of other things) (Luke adds, the pleasures of this life) choke the word, and it proves unfruitful (Matt 13:22) (Parallel passages Mark 4:18-19 and Luke 8:14).

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**Choke:** means to take by the throat and wring ones neck by throttling or strangling utterly) this gives us a little insight into the enormity of the influence of the riches and wealth of the world, its luxuries and pleasures and things like importance, fame and worldly power have on the heart to draw a brother or sister in Christ from their faith.

**Unfruitful:** means without fruit and barren in this context it carries the idea of not yielding what it ought to yield. This man heard the word but it does not produce any result it is ineffective because the cares and deceitfulness of riches and the heartfelt lusts for the pleasures of this life totally choke the word from producing any fruit rendering him barren.

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## THE CARES OF THIS WORLD

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Cover a score of interests and enjoyments which are legitimate in their place and innocent in themselves. Clearly not every pleasure and enjoyment that the world has are sinful or wrong for a Christian to enjoy. In fact, God has given many secular people majestic talents, voices and abilities that we can all appreciate and many wonders in creation, art, technology, music etc. that is not sinful for those in Christ to enjoy. The problem comes when we allow these legitimate and innocent activities to dominate our life. Once we allow these things to be our heartfelt passion in life they smother the word of the Lord sown in the heart and overtake our minds, our time and our thoughts so that the things concerning the Lord become a very low priority and take second place to chasing after the riches, wealth and pleasure of this world. It is not enjoying the valid, lawful and harmless activities of this world that is wrong, but allowing them to dominate our lives. It is the heartfelt craving for these things innocent in themselves which smothers the glorious seed sown in the

heart. So much time taken up for the world's enjoyments that only the dregs remain for the seed which is eventually choked by all that this world has to offer. To some degree all these people in this parable have heard the word of God, they may have been in friendships with Christians, some maybe in churches and others may just have been witnessed to or sought after the Lord on their own, but however they came to the Christian faith it is clear that they all have the following two things in common with each other:

1. They have all heard the message of the cross and the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life and everlasting glory.
2. They never allowed the word of the LORD to take a solid hold on their, heart, their mind and their life.

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## THE GOOD SOIL

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- **Matthew 13:8-9:** Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear. (A parallel passage is in Mark 4:8 and Luke 8:8).

Jesus explanation:

- As for what was sown on good soil (Luke adds, an honest and good heart) this is the one who hears the word and understands it (Luke adds, and keeps it with patience). He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty" (Matt 13:23) (Parallel passages Mark 4:20 and Luke 8:15).

These people have an honest and good heart they hear the Gospel and not only understand it, but are prepared to commit their lives to it and keep it with patience no matter whether their life is blessed in this world or troubles and hardships come their way the Lord Jesus Christ always remains the King seated on the throne of their heart, mind and thoughts.

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**Fruit:** in this context does not only refer to saving souls (especially since we have no control over a person's response to our witnessing) but also embraces the fruits of the Spirit in our hearts, minds and actions and showing love, compassion, kindness, mercy, grace and forgiveness etc., toward our brothers and sisters in Christ and toward those outside the Kingdom of God.

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## THIRTYFOLD, SIXTYFOLD AND A HUNDREDFOLD

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The words, thirtyfold, sixtyfold and a hundredfold show that, all the Lord expects of any brother and sister in Christ is growth. Not everyone is going to be a Peter or Paul and those like them who would certainly come under the title, hundredfold, but we should all be growing in the Lord in some manner. There is no parent on earth that would be happy if their baby child (for no legitimate or medical reason) never learned to speak, walk or increase in knowledge and goodness. Likewise, it is with God, Paul when ministering to the brothers and sisters in the Corinthian church said he could not address them as spiritual people, but as people of the flesh, as infants in Christ, because they were still exalting each other and full of jealousy and strife and behaving only in a human way? (1 Cor. 3:1-3). Jesus words thirtyfold, sixtyfold and a hundredfold show that the Lord understands that in his global worldwide Kingdom there will always be brothers and sisters who are at different levels of growth.

**NOTE:** no brother or sister should feel the lessor in God's Kingdom simply because they do not produce one-hundredfold. Even in natural farming a one hundred percent return on the seed planted is very rarely seen and so it is when the spiritual seed of God is planted into the hearts of those who receive it. All the Lord expects of any of any of his brothers and sisters is to produce fruits according to our ability.

Since the global worldwide body of Christ is made up of people from different nations, countries and cultures and people who have different backgrounds, different levels of education (especially religious), different mindsets and worldviews and many come to the Lord from extremely sinful lifestyles while others come with a heavy load of past baggage or a multitude of deep wounds and hurts it is clear that brothers and sisters within the Lord's global family are all going to be at various levels of faith, knowledge, understanding and spiritual growth. No loving and caring parent expects their children to grow according to another person's abilities, gifts and talents rather all they expect of their child is that they will grow according to their own ability, their own gifts and their own talents. Likewise, it is with our heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, God does not expect us to become super heroes in the faith, but He does expect that we continue to grow according to the light we have in the Lord and according to our own ability. The seed produces fruit according to the proportion it is allowed to possess an honest and good heart.

For further information concerning the global body of Christ, see the title:

- Church (The definition of a Church).

In, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

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## PRODUCING FRUIT AND FULL-TIME MINISTRY

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No-one should ever misunderstand what producing fruit in this context means, or get the mistaken idea that because a person is in full time ministry it automatically means they are in the hundredfold group, certainly some will be, but it is not the fact that they are in full time ministry that puts them in the hundred fold group, but because they have an honest heart of integrity toward the Lord and are full of love and compassion toward those they shepherd and toward those who do not yet know the love and grace of God. These faithful ministers should be given the honour and respect that they deserve.

The reason full time ministry does not guarantee that a minister is in the hundredfold group is because it is possible for ministers to have a church or even a global religious empire and still not be serving the Lord in fact there are some who do many great things yet the Lord will not even allow them to enter his Kingdom when he returns (Matt. 7:21-23). This is because there are certain ones in the ministry whose heartfelt passion is not to serve God, but to serve themselves since they love the riches, wealth, power, importance, fame and exaltation they receive and therefore use their follows for their own gain and as merchandise to achieve their own selfish ambition.

There is no-doubt that there will be certain faithful husbands and devoted wives who share their faith and live their lives before the Lord in integrity, honesty and show compassion toward others as they go about raising their families and dealing with the mundane things of life that will be exalted above certain ministers of churches and certain religious leaders who have a global religious empire. Added to this there will be children, teenagers and single brothers and sisters who will be rewarded simply because they have shared their faith and lived their life with honesty and integrity before the Lord and show those they come in contact with love, compassion, kindness, grace, forgiveness and are willing to help the less fortunate when they are able.



Paul in his letter to the Galatians clearly tells us that the fruits of the Spirit are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (meaning self-restraint, self-control, self-denial and self-discipline) and that against these there is no law (Gal. 5:22-23). The reason that there is no law against these is because whoever applies them to their life will only bring good to others and not harm physically, verbally, emotionally, mentally or spiritually.

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## EARS TO HEAR

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- **Matthew 13:9:** He who has ears, let him hear.

The easiest way to explain what this expression means is to refer to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes). These men not only literally saw Jesus with their own eyes and heard him speak, but also witnessed many of the amazing wonders and miracles he did and yet they still did not believe. Why you might wonder? Simply because they were full of pride, and craved after worldly riches, power, exaltation, importance and fame, they were not in the ministry to serve God, but to serve their own greed and selfish ambition clearly they had a grossly wrong heart attitude and therefore were spiritually blind to the majestic royal glory of the man who stood in front of them and who they plotted to murder. This principal of course does not only apply to religious leaders, but to anyone with a wrong heart attitude before God and a heart full of pride.

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## NO-ONE BUYS A CANDLESTICK TO HIDE ITS LIGHT

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In Mark and Luke's account of this parable Jesus goes on to say that:

- No one buys a candle to hide it under a bed but rather be set on a candlestick? (Mark 4:21-22) (Luke 8:16-17)

Here Jesus is saying that a person is not saved to eternal life and everlasting glory to hide the spiritual light that they have received, just as no-one lights a candle to hide everything in a room. People light candles or turn lights on so everything in a dark room can be seen. Jesus with these words is saying the same thing God does not save a person to eternal glory with the expectation that they will hide all they know. As the light of a candle reveals all that is in a room of darkness, likewise those who are saved to eternal glory should testify of the Gospel of salvation and the love and grace of God to those around them and not be silent.

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*As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.*

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