



# JESUS STORIES

## May 12, 2024 Sermon Study Guide Richele Walker, Director of Family Ministries Jesus Stories: *The Parable of the Sower* Matthew 13:3-9,18-23

*And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> 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.”*

*“Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> 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 arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> 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 choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” Matthew 13: 3-9,18-23 ESV*

### COMMENTRY

The idea behind the word *parable* is “to throw alongside of.” It is a story thrown alongside the truth intended to teach. Parables have been called “earthly stories with a heavenly meaning.”

- i. “The Greek *parabole* is wider than our ‘parable’; in the LXX it translates *masal*, which includes proverbs, riddles and wise sayings as well as parables. Matthew uses it for instance for Jesus’ cryptic saying about defilement ([Matthew 15:10-11, 15](#)), and in [Matthew 24:32](#) (‘lesson’) it indicates a comparison.” (France)
- ii. “It had a double advantage upon their hearers: first, upon their memory, we being very apt to remember stories. Second, upon their minds, to put them upon studying the meaning of what they heard so delivered.” (Poole)
- iii. Parables generally teach *one main point* or principle. We can get into trouble by expecting that they be intricate systems of theology, with the smallest detail revealing hidden truths. “A parable is not an allegory; an allegory is a story in which every possible detail has an inner meaning; but an allegory



- If you have only lived in an urban environment, how well do you understand the methods of planting a crop and all that is required to reap the benefits of what the seeds may eventually produce?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- If however, farming is your lively hood, and your survival depends upon a crop that yields produce, how will the story hold greater meaning for you?

3. If the parable of the Sower contains one main primary, what is the message that Jesus spoke about? Think of the side-by-side structure of a parable and look back at the 2 passages in Matthew.
- In your own words, describe the imagery found in verses 3-9.

- Jesus ends that passage with a directive, much like we might use when speaking to a child if we want to make sure that they are listening to our instructions. What is His point?

- Richele described her loss of hearing in one ear, so she turns her good ear toward the person speaking. How might we hold onto this visual image as we read Jesus' words?

4. Now look at verses 18-23 where Jesus is describing the impact to the seeds that have been sown.

- The "seeds" were impacted by the soil conditions in 1 of 4 ways depending on where the "seeds" landed. As we look at the story and Jesus' word picture how do you interpret what He wants each of us to hear?

1. What happens to the seed sown along the path?

2. What happens to the seeds that fall on rocky soil?

3. What happens to the seeds that land in the thorny soil?

4. What happens to the seeds that land in good, fertile soil?

- Consider your own spiritual journey and growth, where you began and where you are today. Richele describes her journey and what God called her to do. We each have been placed here on earth to do Kingdom work but we have a choice to make which is heart issue. What's the condition of your heart today?

- Remember that Matthew was a Tax Collect who became a Disciple and the author of the Gospel that we have camped in today. What role has God called you into that requires obedience and a willingness to *see* and *hear* the spiritual truths spoken today?

### **MAKING IT REAL**

This week will you choose to know Jesus personally, rather than only know about Him? What will you take away from Richele's teaching today?