

Matthew 13:1-23

Parable of the Farmer Scattering Seed



Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 13:1-2	Jesus leaves the house and begins teaching by the lake; large crowds gather, so He gets into a boat to teach.	<i>Sat</i> (kathēmai) – position of authority to teach; <i>Crowds</i> (ochlos) – multitudes of people.	Jesus uses natural surroundings to reach people spiritually. His message is for everyone.	Meet people where they are. God's truth can be taught anywhere.
Matthew 13:3	He begins teaching many things in parables, starting with the story of a sower.	<i>Parable</i> (parabolē) – comparison, illustration of truth; <i>Sower</i> (speirōn) – one scattering seed.	Jesus uses everyday examples to reveal spiritual truths.	God's Word is living seed—plant it in every heart you encounter.
Matthew 13:4	Seed falls along the path, and birds eat it up.	<i>Path</i> (hodos) – hardened ground; <i>Birds</i> (peteina) – often symbolize evil or distraction.	The hardened heart hears but doesn't absorb truth.	Guard your heart from hardness, pride, or distraction.
Matthew 13:5-6	Some seed falls on rocky places with little soil; it sprouts quickly but withers in the sun because it has no root.	<i>Rocky</i> (petrodes) – shallow; <i>Root</i> (rhiza) – foundation, source of life.	Some receive God's Word with emotion but lack depth to endure trials.	Build spiritual roots through prayer, study, and endurance.
Matthew 13:7	Other seed falls among thorns, which choke the plants.	<i>Thorns</i> (akantha) – obstacles, cares of life; <i>Choke</i> (sympnigō) – to suffocate, crowd out.	The cares of the world and deceit of wealth suffocate spiritual growth.	Weed out worldly distractions—focus on what truly matters.

Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 13:8-9	Some seed falls on good soil and produces a crop—thirty, sixty, or a hundredfold.	<i>Good</i> (kalos) – fruitful, noble; <i>Yielded</i> (didōmi) – to give or produce.	Fruitful hearts receive and multiply the Word's impact.	Let God's Word take root and reproduce His character in you.
Matthew 13:10	The disciples ask why He speaks to people in parables.	<i>Why</i> (dia ti) – for what reason; <i>Parables</i> – hidden truths revealed	Parables both reveal and conceal truth—depending on the listener's heart.	Approach God's Word with humility and hunger for understanding.
Matthew 13:11	Jesus says the secrets of the Kingdom are given to the disciples but not to others.	<i>Mysteries</i> (mystērion) – divine truths revealed to believers.	Understanding comes through relationship, not intellect.	Intimacy with Christ unlocks insight into His Kingdom.
Matthew 13:12	Those who have understanding will receive more; those who reject it will lose what they have.	<i>Have</i> (echō) – to hold fast; <i>Taken away</i> (airō) – to remove.	Spiritual growth depends on how we respond to revelation.	Use what God has given—spiritual neglect leads to loss.
Matthew 13:13-15	Jesus quotes Isaiah: people see but do not perceive; hear but do not understand because their hearts are calloused.	<i>Calloused</i> (pachunō) – dull, insensitive; <i>Understand</i> (syniēmi) – to perceive deeply.	Hardened hearts block revelation; obedience opens understanding.	Keep your heart tender—receptivity determines revelation.
Matthew 13:16-17	Jesus blesses the disciples: their eyes and ears are open; many prophets longed to see what they see.	<i>Blessed</i> (makarios) – spiritually favored; <i>Longed</i> (epithy meō) – to desire earnestly.	Revelation is a gift—believers today experience what ancient prophets anticipated.	Be grateful for the privilege of knowing Christ personally.

Verse	Details	Keywords	Revelation	Application
Matthew 13:18-19	Jesus explains the parable: the seed is the message of the Kingdom; the path represents those who hear but don't understand.	<i>Message</i> (logos) – Word; <i>Snatches away</i> (harpazō) – to seize suddenly.	The enemy steals truth from those who fail to receive it by faith.	Engage your heart and mind when hearing God's Word.
Matthew 13:20-21	The rocky ground represents those who receive the Word joyfully but fall away in trouble or persecution.	<i>Fall away</i> (skandalizō) – to stumble or be offended.	Shallow faith can't survive pressure; trials reveal depth.	Let hardship drive you deeper into Christ, not away from Him.
Matthew 13:22	The thorny soil represents those choked by life's worries and deceitfulness of wealth.	<i>Worry</i> (merimna) – anxiety; <i>Deceitfulness</i> (a patē) – false allure.	Distractions and desires compete with devotion.	Simplify your life so the Word can thrive in your heart.
Matthew 13:23	The good soil represents those who hear, understand, and bear fruit abundantly.	<i>Understand</i> (syniēmi) – to grasp fully; <i>Fruit</i> (karpos) – spiritual outcome.	True believers produce evidence of transformation.	Cultivate a soft heart—God's Word will multiply through you.

Summary Revelation

The **seed** is the Word of God; the **soil** is the heart.

The same seed produces different outcomes depending on the heart's condition.

The Kingdom grows where the Word is **heard, understood, and lived**.

 **Fruitfulness depends not on the sower, but on the soil of the soul. A heart that is open, obedient and rooted in faith produces lasting fruit that glorifies God.**

Cross References

Matthew 13:1–2

“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.”

- **Cross References:**
 - Luke 5:1–3 – Jesus teaches from a boat to the crowds on the shore.
 - Mark 4:1 – Same setting for the Parable of the Sower.
 - Matthew 5:1–2 – Jesus also sits while teaching the Sermon on the Mount.
 - **Theme: Jesus meets people where they are—physically and spiritually.**
The humble teacher’s setting symbolizes His accessibility to all people.
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Matthew 13:3–4

“A farmer went out to sow his seed... Some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.”

- **Cross References:**
 - Luke 8:5 – Parallel passage; the birds devour the seed.
 - Jeremiah 4:3 – “Break up your unplowed ground and do not sow among thorns.”
 - Mark 4:15 – The birds represent Satan stealing the Word.
 - **Theme: A hardened heart resists God’s Word.**
Truth can’t take root in a calloused heart.
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Matthew 13:5–6

“Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil...”

- **Cross References:**
 - Hosea 10:12 – “Break up your unplowed ground, for it is time to seek the Lord.”
 - Mark 4:16–17 – The rocky soil represents those who fall away during trouble.
 - James 1:2–4 – Trials test and strengthen faith.
 - **Theme: Shallow faith cannot endure deep trials.**
True roots form only through perseverance.
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Matthew 13:7

“Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.”

- **Cross References:**
 - Luke 8:14 – The thorns are worries, riches, and pleasures of life.
 - Matthew 6:24 – “You cannot serve both God and money.”
 - 1 Timothy 6:9–10 – The love of money leads to ruin and destruction.
 - **Theme: Worldly distractions choke out spiritual growth.**
You cannot thrive in faith while entangled in worldly pursuits.
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Matthew 13:8–9

“Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop...”

- **Cross References:**
 - Galatians 5:22–23 – The fruit of the Spirit.
 - John 15:5 – “Whoever abides in Me bears much fruit.”

- Colossians 1:10 – Live a life worthy of the Lord, bearing fruit in every good work.
 - **Theme: Receptive hearts yield abundant fruit.**
Fruitfulness is the evidence of genuine faith.
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Matthew 13:10–11

“The disciples came to him and asked, ‘Why do you speak to the people in parables?’”

- **Cross References:**
 - Mark 4:10–11 – Same question about parables.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:10 – The Spirit reveals God’s secrets to believers.
 - Proverbs 25:2 – “It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.”
 - **Theme: Revelation is a reward for relationship.**
God reveals His mysteries to those who seek Him sincerely.
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Matthew 13:12

“Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance...”

- **Cross References:**
 - Luke 8:18 – “Whoever has will be given more.”
 - Proverbs 9:9 – Teach the wise and they will become wiser.
 - 2 Corinthians 9:10 – God multiplies what is sown faithfully.
 - **Theme: Spiritual growth multiplies through stewardship of truth.**
What you value in faith, God increases.
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Matthew 13:13–15

“Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.”

- **Cross References:**
 - Isaiah 6:9–10 – Prophecy quoted by Jesus.
 - John 12:40 – People’s hearts are hardened to truth.
 - Romans 11:8 – “God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes that could not see.”
 - **Theme: Hardened hearts hinder revelation.**
Spiritual blindness is self-inflicted through unbelief.
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Matthew 13:16–17

“Blessed are your eyes because they see and your ears because they hear.”

- **Cross References:**
 - Luke 10:23–24 – “Many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see.”
 - 1 Peter 1:10–12 – Prophets longed for the grace now revealed in Christ.
 - John 20:29 – “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”
 - **Theme: Believers live in the fulfillment of prophecy.**
Spiritual sight is the greatest blessing of the gospel age.
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Matthew 13:18–19

“When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it...”

- **Cross References:**
 - Mark 4:14–15 – Satan immediately takes away the Word sown in their heart.
 - 2 Corinthians 4:4 – “The god of this world has blinded the minds of unbelievers.”

- Proverbs 4:23 – “Guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.”
 - **Theme: Understanding is protection against the enemy’s theft.**
The Word must be spiritually discerned, not just heard.
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Matthew 13:20–21

“The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy...”

- **Cross References:**
 - Mark 4:16–17 – Same imagery; persecution reveals shallowness.
 - John 6:66 – Many turned away when following became difficult.
 - James 1:12 – Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial.
 - **Theme: Endurance reveals genuine faith.**
Emotional response without commitment leads to spiritual failure.
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Matthew 13:22

“The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word.”

- **Cross References:**
 - Luke 8:14 – The seed choked by life’s pleasures and riches.
 - 1 John 2:15–17 – Love not the world or its desires.
 - Hebrews 12:1 – Lay aside the weights that hinder your race.
 - **Theme: Faith cannot flourish in divided soil.**
Spiritual fruit requires letting go of worldly attachments.
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Matthew 13:23

“But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.”

- **Cross References:**
 - Luke 8:15 – The good soil is a noble and good heart that retains the Word.
 - John 15:8 – “This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit.”
 - Philippians 1:11 – Being filled with the fruit of righteousness through Christ.
- **Theme: Hearing, understanding, and obedience lead to fruitfulness.**

The heart that receives the Word in faith multiplies its impact.