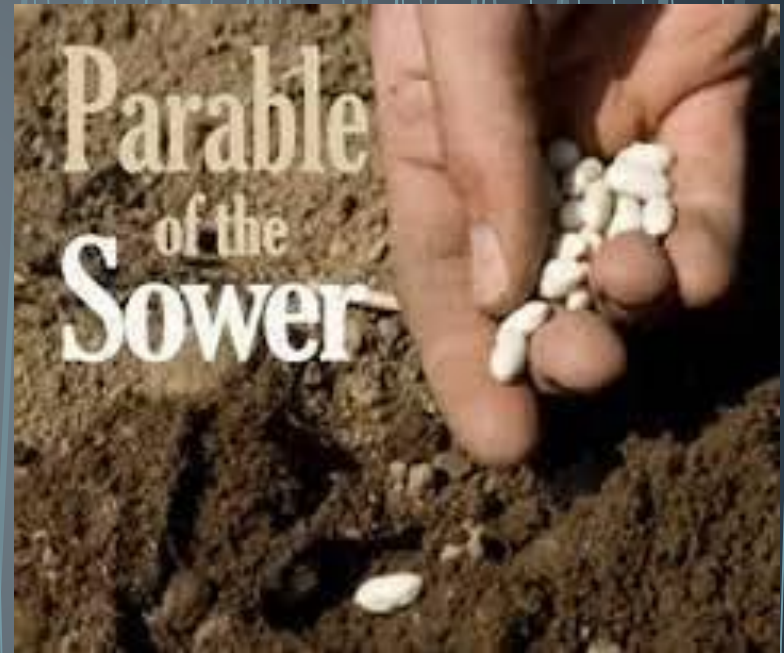


“Behold, a sower
went out to sow.”

— Matthew 13:3



Introduction

- The setting
- The Lord used everyday circumstances and illustrations to teach
- He wants His word to be alive and rooted in every part of your life.



The Wayside

- “When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart.” (Matt. 13:19)
- Those who hear the word and do not understand
- They do not come with the intention to benefit
- The word makes no impression



The Wayside

- These easily deny the Lord Christ
 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” (Rom. 8:35-36)
- Ground must be prepared to receive a seed
 - *“Grant us alertness, I Lord, in order that we may understand how to stand up before You at the time of prayer...”* (Agpeya, Midnight watch)

Stony Ground

- “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.” (Matt. 13:20-21)
- “But he who endures to the end shall be saved.” (Mk. 13:13)



How the stone is formed

1. No firm determination

- “But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank...” (Dan. 1:8)

2. No strong motive

3. No firm foundation

- “But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.” (Matt. 7:26-27)



Thorny Ground

- It produces roots, but prosperity destroys it
- Prosperity may destroy the word in the heart just as persecution
- Thorns are:
 1. Cares of the world
 2. Deceitfulness of riches



Good Ground

- Fruitful
- Qualities of good ground
 1. Understand the word
 2. Fruitful
 - “Understanding is good to all who do according to it.”
(Ps. 110:10 LXX)



Qualities of Good Ground

1. Understand the word
2. Fruitful
3. Not all are equally fruitful, but all are equally accepted and rewarded
 - “Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” (Matt. 25:23)
 - “And when those came who were hired about the eleventh hour, they each received a denarius.” (Matt. 20:9)

Conclusion

- “Behold, I will make *My* words in your mouth fire, And this people wood, And it shall devour them.” (Jer. 5:14)
- “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put *My* Spirit within you and cause you to walk in *My* statutes, and you will keep *My* judgments and do them.” (Ezk. 36:26-27)

