

Lesson 3. Parable of Sowing Soil, Matt 13:22–23; vv. 7–8; Thorns & Good Soil Explained; Conclusions from the Parable of Sowing Soil; Parable of Tares & Wheat, Matt 13:24–26

Matthew 13:22 - “And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

NOTE: This verse explains:

Matthew 13:7 - “And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.”

1. This example instructs us about those believers who are victims of distractions.
2. The Lord’s analysis in verse 22 speaks of the “worries of the world” and makes reference to legitimate distractions, such as job, family, logistics, bills, sickness, and responsibilities of various kinds.
3. There are enough things to do in every person’s life that if he is not organized, he will allow the priority of doctrine to become misplaced as a result.
4. It’s the, “I don’t have enough time” excuse usually voiced in a whining, nasal tone. You may not have enough time for everything. Therefore, you had best put doctrine first or you will never get it in.
5. The secret is to organize your day with doctrine in mind. The first thing that goes into your Day-Timer is Bible class, a tape, a review of notes, or even an Internet hookup where you can stream previous classes or listen live.
6. The “deceitfulness of riches” in verse 22 indicates the thorn distractions are so subtle the believer may be unwittingly contributing to the plan of Satan.
7. The word “deceive” is the Greek **ἀπάτη (arátē)** and means “to give a false impression by appearance, statement, or influence.”
8. The “worries of this life” are the obvious distractions of people, system, thought, and disaster testing. The “deceitfulness of wealth” refers to the subtlety of prosperity testing.



9. Both are thorns. One is obvious while the other is not.
10. Distractions choke off spiritual growth in much the same way weeds and thorny bushes choke off the health of a plant.
11. The process is subtle and gradual and thus very insidious:
 - 1) Negative volition prevents the unbeliever from even getting started. (vv. 4 & 19)
 - 2) Human viewpoint is the thought pattern of a believer with a withered soul. (vv. 5-6 & 20–21)
 - 3) Lack of application under pressure indicates submission to distractions from Satan, the world, and sinful nature. (vv. 7 & 22)
12. The only manner in which the believer can consistently navigate through the exigencies of life is to be guided by maximum doctrine in the soul.

Matthew 13:23 - “And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

NOTE:In this verse our Lord explains:

Matthew 13:8 - “And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

1. “Good soil” refers to the soul of the positive volition believer. His faith perception of the communicated message enabled the Holy Spirit to metabolize the doctrine into the stream of consciousness of his *kardia*.
2. The believer expresses positive volition when he uses this doctrine under pressure by applying it to his daily life.
3. Application of doctrine to life and circumstances, be it thought, decision, or action, is the production of divine good, i.e., “fruit.”
4. The issue in the Angelic Conflict hinges around personal volition: Will the believer from his own motivation choose to execute the plan of God or the plan of Satan?
5. Every spirit-filled choice for God’s plan produces fruit while ever choice for Satan’s plan produces human good and evil.



6. Too often, Christians misunderstand this concept. Production of fruit is constantly being described as “helping one’s fellow man” as if that were the only category of production and “fruit bearing.”
7. Certainly benevolence, compassion, and service are expressions of divine good but this limits the impact of the Christian experience to nothing more diversified than non-profit service organizations or personal efforts toward helping those one is motivated or able to assist.
8. Any application of doctrine, whether the resolution of a personal problem, a choice which broadens future options, or simply a pro-Semitic attitude toward the Jews is production of fruit.
9. All divine good is rewarded in both time and eternity under the principle of escrow blessings.
10. There is no equality in life or in heaven. Some advance to spiritual maturity more quickly than others and then maintain their position.
11. Consequently, some produce a hundred-, some a sixty-, and some a thirty-fold harvest.

D. Conclusions from the Parable of Sowing Soil.

1. Jesus is now changing the target of His teaching away from the Jewish nation over to those few who express positive volition to His message.
2. The nation Israel has been offered the kingdom of the Messiah and they have rejected it. The King now begins the process of postponing the Kingdom as he starts to recruit membership into a royal family of spiritual aristocrats.
3. Those who are positive are given the power to understand the mysteries of the heavenly kingdom.
4. Those who understand will form a new following that will become known as the Royal Family of God and the Universal Church.
5. Since salvation is open to “whosoever believes in Him” and we have no idea who will respond and who will not, then we are to consider all people as potential targets for the Gospel message.



6. Those who respond become trichotomous and possess assets to understand divine truth. The unique assets of the Church Age were not available at first to the Lord's disciples but once the dispensation began they each received their imputations.
7. By means of the Grace Apparatus for Perception these disciples were able to accumulate the mystery doctrines of the Church Age through the mentorship of the Holy Spirit.
8. Over the course of the Church Age untold numbers of unbelievers have acquired academic understanding of Christian principles but did not have the assets required to metabolize it.
9. Consequently, as unbelievers they are incapable of making any proper use of the information they think they understand but do not.
10. To them, Christianity adheres to a moral code which requires the performance of certain rituals designed to impress God.
11. And they perform these morality plays without ever having believed in Jesus Christ for salvation.
12. As a result, many churches are jammed full of heathen who meticulously obey the legalistic standards of modern Christianity but without the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Consequently, the enemy has infiltrated the ranks. Believers worship alongside unbelievers and the doctrines of demons are insidiously interwoven in to the church's message.
13. Some accept the Gospel message through grace didactics while others reject the Gospel through the strong delusion of cosmic didactics.
14. Some believers grow in grace through grace didactics while others reject the teachings of the Word of God through the strong delusion of cosmic didactics.
15. Those who grow in grace can eventually discern the identity of some of the infiltrators but not all. The final assorting must be left to the Lord.

E. The Parable of the Tares and the Wheat: Matthew 13:24-30.

1. The harvest the Lord speaks of in the parable of sowing soils has to do with divine good production of the believer who grows in grace and executes the plan of God for his life.



2. The execution of the Christian way of life is due to sowing the seed of doctrine.
3. However, the great deceiver is actively seeking to destroy the power of the Word. His demonic forces go to great lengths to neutralize believers.
4. Satan's most successful method, throughout the long history of the Angelic Conflict, has been the sowing of the lie alongside truth.
5. The evangelist and pastor sow the seeds of truth. Emissaries of Satan come along behind them and sow the seeds of the lie.
6. The result is that there are two kinds of people in the world: (1) The "good seed" who carry the Word of truth in their souls and (2) the "tares" who are the enemy of truth although appearing to support it.
7. Consequently, our Lord warns the multitude of this reality through the parable of the tares and the wheat.

Matthew 13:24 - "He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in the field.

v. 25 - "But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed tares also among the wheat, and went away.

v. 26 - "But when the wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also."

1. The Lord continues his technique of teaching in code. This parable reveals that the world is sown with a "good seed" of believers, i.e., divine good production. But during the kingdom, many impostors, imitators, and charlatans will seek to counterfeit the plan of God.
2. Again we find Christ as the "Sower," the world, with emphasis on the human race, is the "field"; the "good seed" are believers who seek to execute the plan of God; and the "tares" are satanic emissaries who seek through deception to promote the doctrines of demons so as to discredit the true production of the believer.
3. A tare is a plant, also called the "bearded darnel," which still grows in the Middle East. It looks exactly like wheat until they both come into ear. Then they each can be identified without a problem.

