

JESUS TAUGHT IN PARABLES

Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8



Jesus traveled, telling people the good news about God's kingdom. Crowds gathered to listen. Jesus was sitting by the Sea of Galilee. So many people gathered around Him that He got into a boat and taught while the crowd stood on the shore.

Jesus often taught using parables. This time, He told a story about a man planting seeds. Jesus began. "A sower went out to plant seeds in his field. Some seeds fell on a hard path. Birds swooped down and ate the seeds.

"Other seeds fell on rocky ground. They sprouted quickly, but the soil was too shallow for roots to grow. When the sun got hot, the plants dried up and died.

"Some seeds fell among thorny ground. The thorns grew up and choked the plants so they couldn't grow strong. But some seeds fell on good soil. These seeds grew into healthy plants and made more grain than the farmer had planted!"

Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Why do You tell stories like this?"

Jesus replied, "Not everyone is ready to

understand the truth about God's kingdom. I speak in parables so that those who are ready will understand."

Jesus said, "The seeds on the path are like people who hear the truth but don't understand it. The evil one snatches away what was planted in their hearts.

"The seeds on rocky ground are like people who hear the truth and are happy to believe at first, but when it becomes hard to follow God's Word, they quickly give up. The seeds among the thorns are like people who hear the truth, but do not give God's Word room to grow in their hearts. But the seeds in the good soil are like people who hear the truth and welcome it. They understand the gospel and let it change their lives. They grow in faith and share the good news with others!"

Christ Connection: Not everyone who hears about Jesus believes in Him. Some people don't understand the gospel, and some people care more about the things of this world than they do God's kingdom. But people who believe in Jesus and follow Him will grow to be like Him and will share His good news so others can believe, too.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. All of the stories in the Bible fit together to tell us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

» Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write a T, if it's false, write an F.

- ___ Not everyone is ready to know the truth about God's kingdom.
- ___ All of the seeds grew into healthy plants.
- ___ Jesus helped the disciples understand.
- ___ The seeds that fell among the thorns were choked out.
- ___ Jesus said everyone gives God's Word room to grow in their hearts.
- ___ The birds left the seeds on the path alone.

» What does this story teach us about God?

» Why should we allow God's Word to be the most important voice in our lives?

GOSPEL DISCUSSION

Jesus came to reveal God's kingdom and invite us into it through salvation. By dying on the cross, Jesus made the way for our sins to be forgiven. Those who repent of their sin and trust in Jesus as Lord are promised life in God's kingdom forever!



THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

- » How do we enter into God's kingdom?

- » Does God know who will accept or reject Him?

- » How does planting God's Word in our heart help us endure when things get hard?

CHRIST CONNECTION

Not everyone who hears about Jesus believes in Him. Some people don't understand the gospel, and some people care more about the things of this world than they do God's kingdom. But people who believe in Jesus and follow Him will grow to be like Him and will share His good news so others can believe too.



THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

» Find Isaiah 40:8 in your Bible and write the words below.

» Write a prayer to God, praising God for His greatness and goodness, knowing He is Creator and King.

READ THE WORD

Focus on the parable by reading one of the following passages each day this week:

☐ Matthew 13:1-4

☐ Matthew 13:10-13

☐ Matthew 13:5-6

☐ Matthew 13:18-21

☐ Matthew 13:7-9

☐ Matthew 13:22-23