



A MAN AND HIS STORIES #1
PARABLES FOR JESUS
Matt. 13:1-23 - Mark 4:1-20 - Luke 8:4-18
Call Study – Jason Park

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.” ¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?” **Matthew 13:1-10**

FARMER/SOWER = JESUS

SEED = THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIELD = THE WORLD

THE SOIL = CONDITION OF THE HEART

BIRDS = SATAN

PROTECT THE SOIL (OUR HEART)

⁴⁵The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth what is good; and the evil *man* out of the evil *treasure* brings forth what is evil; for his mouth speaks from that which fills his heart. **Luke 6:45-46**

PROTECT FROM A HARDENED HEART

⁷Therefore, just as the Holy Spirit says, “Today if you hear His voice, ⁸Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, **Heb. 3:7-8**

²For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because ³it was not united by faith in those who heard. **Heb. 4:2**

THREATS TO OUR HEART

THE PATH – (V.4)

THE **DEVIL** TOOK THE WORD (1 Peter 5:8 – the devil prowls...)

THE ROCKY PLACES (V.5)

THE **FLESH** or sin nature (1 Peter 2:11) “abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul.”
“ALKA SELTZER CHRISTIANS – All fizz and fuss” – J. Vernon Mcgee

AMONG THE THORNS (V.7)

THE **WORLD** (1 John 2: 15-17) “Do not love the world or anything in the world.”

THE GOOD SOIL

IDENTIFIED BY IT'S **FRUIT**

Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.
Matt. 13:8

Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. **Matt. 7:20**

HOW DO I CULTIVATE “THE GOOD SOIL”

FORGE A **RESILIENT HEART**

²⁰ My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. ²¹ Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, ²² for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. ²³ Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life. **Proverbs 4:20-23**

PLANT **DEEP ROOTS**

⁶ And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. ⁷ Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. **Col. 2:7**

¹ Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers. ² But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. ³ They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.
Ps. 1:1-3

ACCEPT **RESPONSIBILITY**

²⁹ The Holy Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and walk along beside the carriage.” ³⁰ Philip ran over and heard the man reading from the prophet Isaiah. Philip asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹ The man replied, “How can I, unless someone instructs me?” **Acts 8:29-31**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

What are your initial observations?

Have you experienced times when it was more difficult for God's word to be firmly planted in your heart?

How about the times when the word is firmly planted, and fruit is produced. Describe those times?

How do you describe you helping to sow God's word in the field you live?

How do you remember your responsibility to live out the Great Commission?

The parables of Jesus provided us with some of His most excellent teachings. He used familiar situations and imagery to illustrate deeper truths about God's kingdom, human behavior, and the nature of faith. "A Man and His Stories" is a 5-part study for men seeking to explore Jesus' parables and learn how they can transform our lives as men. This study is a guide and an invitation for men to explore and embrace the profound stories of Jesus in ways that speak directly to a man's role, challenges, and aspirations. As we plunge into the parables, let us see them as a living testament to the unbreakable bond between Jesus' stories and the transformation in the life of a Man of God.