

The Life of Christ

The Parables of Jesus Christ - The Parable of the Sower

Handout: Notes on Interpretation of Parables

Luke 8:1-3 Setting, and identification notes, consider purpose of Luke

Luke 8:4-15 Parable of the Sower, Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-34

Matthew 13:1-23

vs 1-2 Setting

vs 3-9 The Parable

vs 10-17

1. Why parables? (longest answer of parallel accounts)
2. Proof that Luke 8, Matthew 13, and Mark 4 are all the same single instance (disciple presumably only asked once). Note: importance of parallel Scriptures
3. Note vs 14, consider the purpose of Matthew

vs 18

1. Note that Jesus explains his own parable. Does this allow for further interpretation?
2. Does Jesus indicate that there is more to be discerned from the parable?
3. What is presented to us by the graphic illustration of the parable?
4. Is this fatalistic? Is Jesus simply explaining something, or is there an action expected from the understanding audience?

Parable	Meaning	Consider an Application
V 4 Fell by the road, eaten by birds	V 19 Does not understand the Word, the devil snatches it away	Our presentation of the gospel must be understood – clear presentation, show them in their own Bible
V 5-6 Fell on rocky soil, sprang up, but were scorched	V 20-21 Receives gospel with joy, but then falls away	Needs of careful discipleship and personal fellowship for new believers. (<i>Good idea for ALL believers, huh?</i>)
V 7 Fell among thorns, choked out	V 22 unfruitful due to lack of faith and finance-focus	We should recognize this as a need for self-watch; Galatians 5:16 solution
V 8 Abundant crop	V 26 Fruitful believer	The local church must ensure that they are “good soil” – note that a diversity of productivity remains

Study, Obey, Teach – Ezra 7:10 *For Ezra had set his heart to SEEK the law of Jehovah, and to DO it, and to TEACH in Israel statutes and ordinances. (ASV)*