



# **SeedTime & Harvest**

Preparing for Advance in a Time of Crisis



**Matthew 13:3** Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.



**Matthew 13:6** But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. 7 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. 8 But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"



## **Look at what Jesus said regarding the Purpose of Parables:**

**Matthew 13:10** And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" 11 He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. 12 For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 13 Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.



## **Notice the characteristics of “them/they”**

**14** *And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: ‘Hearing you **will hear and shall not understand,** And seeing you will **see and not perceive;***

**15** ***For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed,** Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.’*



## Characteristics of “you”

***16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.***

## Explanation of the parable for “you”

1. Some seed fell by the wayside (**unprepared**); and the birds came and devoured them.
2. Some fell on stony (**shallow**) places, where they did not have much earth;
3. And some fell among thorns (**distractions**), and the thorns sprang up and choked them.
4. But others fell on good ground (**ready to receive**) and yielded a crop.



## **Jesus described four conditions of soil, or of the heart: three bad and one good.**

1. Wayside is an unreceptive place: In Palestine the fields were in long narrow strips; and the ground between the strips was always a right of way. It was used as a common path; and therefore it was beaten as hard as pavement by the feet of countless people.



## **Jesus described four conditions of soil, or of the heart.**

2. Stony soil was shallow. It is a thin layer of soil over limestone rock. But there was no depth of earth and when it sent down its roots in search of nourishment and moisture, it would meet only the rock, and would be starved to death, and quite unable to withstand the heat of the sun.



## Jesus described four conditions of soil, or of the heart.

3. Thorny soil was full of weeds and distractions. The dormant weeds grew together; but the weeds were so strong that they choked the life out of the seed.
  - Matthew 13:22, *"Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world ...choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful."*



## Jesus described four conditions of soil, or of the heart.

4. Matthew 13:23 *“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*



**Hearing and receiving is a matter of conditions of the heart and God's timing (Kairos - "opportunity").**



**The best way to stop being distracted, is to learn how to focus.**



## **The Power of Sowing in Obedience to God**

**Genesis 26:1** *There was **a famine in the land**, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar. 2 Then the Lord appeared to him and said: “Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you. 3 **Dwell in this land**, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.*

*...6 **So Isaac dwelt in Gerar.***



# The Power of Sowing in Obedience to God

**Genesis 26:12** *Then Isaac sowed in that land, and reaped in the same year a hundredfold; and the Lord blessed him. 13 The man began to prosper, and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; 14 for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.*



## LESSONS FOR YOU FROM ISAAC

- Resist the urge to be frightened and flee.
- When conditions change, make adjustments and remain obedient to God.
- Sowing is our business. Reaping is God's business.
- People will envy your progress. Don't give energy to them.