

**Practical Principles from the Parables** 

"Recognizing Your Response to the Redeemer"

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

# **Sermon Series Summary**

Have you ever found the parables confusing or difficult to understand? If so, then you are not alone. Many people have trouble understanding these teachings but Jesus gives the answer to decode these parables and discover practical principles to live out your faith in modern times. Join us as we begin a new series that will give you new insight into practical principles of faithfulness as we study the parables found in Matthew 13.

# **Series Theme Passage**

Matthew 13:16 (ESV) - But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.

#### **Main Text**

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (ESV) – ¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁶ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew

up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear."

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

# Big Idea – Your Relationship With the Redeemer is Revealed by Your Response to the Word Four Responses to the Redeemer

### Response #1 - A Hard Hearted Rejection of the Redeemer Exposes You to the Enemy

**Matthew 13:18-19** (ESV) – <sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

■ **Key Point** – The first response discusses the results of a hardhearted rejection of the Lord and His Word. This type of rejection opens your heart, soul, mind, and life to the attack of the enemy in every area of life.

## Response #2 - A Shallow Surrender to the Savior Produces a Faith that Stumbles and Falls

**Matthew 13:20-21** (ESV) – <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

■ **Key Point** – The second response discusses the results of a shallow surrender to the Lord. This is the individual that simply goes through the motions of an emotional response to the Lord but never invests their life into a true relationship with the Lord. This individual will stumble and fall in life under the appearance of faithfulness.

#### Response #3 - A Worldly Response to Christ Chokes Out Your Faithfulness

**Matthew 13:22** (ESV) – <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

■ **Key Point** – The third response discusses the results of worldly response to the Lord. This is the individual that comes to place their faith in the Lord based on their own terms instead of completely surrendering their life to Him and Lord and Savior. This individual will find their lack of sincere faithfulness choked and stifled when stress of life consumes them.

# Response #4 - As A Committed Christian You Become a Daring Disciple

**Matthew 13:23** (ESV) - <sup>23</sup> As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

■ **Key Point** – The final response discusses the results of the dedicated servant of the Lord. This is the individual that becomes the daring disciple as labeled by the world. This individual is simply known as faithful and true by the Lord.

#### **Memory Verse**

**Galatians 6:7** (ESV) – Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

#### Challenge:

Remind yourself that your responsibility, before the Lord, is to apply the truths you have discovered in the Word of God. As you reflect on this message, answer this question,

How is "God's Truth" opening your eyes to see His mission more clearly today?