

Jesus Teaches in Parables

13:1 ON that day Jesus went out of ^athe house, and was sitting ^bby the sea. 2 And great multitudes gathered to Him, so that ^aHe got into a boat and sat down, and the whole multitude was standing on the beach. 3 And He spoke many things to them in ^aparables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow; 4 and as he sowed, some *seeds* fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 “And others fell upon the rocky places, where they ¹did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil. 6 “But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. 7 “And others fell ¹among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. 8 “And others fell on the good soil, and ^{*}yielded a crop, some a ^ahundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty. 9 “^aHe who has ears, let him hear.”

An Explanation

10 And the disciples came and said to Him, “Why do You speak to them in parables?” 11 And He answered and said to them, “^aTo you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. 12 “^aFor whoever has, to him shall *more* be given, and he shall have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him. 13 “Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while ^aseeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. 14 “And ¹in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

² ^aYOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, ³ BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND;
AND ⁴YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

15 ^aFOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL,
AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR,
AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES
LEST THEY SHOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES,
AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS,
AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN,
AND I SHOULD HEAL THEM.’

16 “^aBut blessed are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. 17 “For truly I say to you, that ^amany 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*.

The Sower Explained

18 “^aHear then the parable of the sower. 19 “When anyone hears ^athe word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, ^bthe evil *one* comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. 20 “And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the word, and immediately receives it with joy; 21 yet he has no *firm* root in himself, but is *only* temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he ¹ ^afalls away. 22 “And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the word, and the worry of ^athe ¹world, and the ^bdeceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. 23 “And the one on whom seed was sown on the

good soil, this is the man who hears the word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some ^aa hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.”

Tares among Wheat

24 He presented another parable to them, saying, “^aThe kingdom of heaven ¹may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** “But while men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed ¹tares also among the wheat, and went away. **26** “But when the ¹wheat sprang up and bore grain, then the tares became evident also. **27** “And the slaves of the landowner came and said to him, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? ¹How then does it have tares?’ **28** “And he said to them, ‘An ¹enemy has done this!’ And the slaves *said to him, ‘Do you want us, then, to go and gather them up?’ **29** “But he *said, ‘No; lest while you are gathering up the tares, you may root up the wheat with them. **30** ‘Allow both to grow together until the harvest; and in the time of the harvest I will say to the reapers, “First gather up the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them up; but ^agather the wheat into my barn.’””

The Mustard Seed

31 He presented another parable to them, saying, “^aThe kingdom of heaven is like ^ba mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; **32** and this is smaller than all *other* seeds; but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants, and becomes a tree, so that ^aTHE BIRDS OF THE ¹AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES.”

The Leaven

33 He spoke another parable to them, “^aThe kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took, and hid in ^bthree ¹pecks of meal, until it was all leavened.”

34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, and He did not speak to them ^awithout a parable, **35** so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, “^aI WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.”

The Tares Explained

36 Then He left the multitudes, and went into ^athe house. And His disciples came to Him, saying, “^bExplain to us the parable of the ¹tares of the field.” **37** And He answered and said, “The one who sows the good seed is ^athe Son of Man, **38** and the field is the world; and *as for* the good seed, these are ^athe sons of the kingdom; and the tares are ^bthe sons of ^cthe evil one; **39** and the enemy who sowed them is the devil, and the harvest is ^athe ¹end of the age; and the reapers are angels. **40** “Therefore just as the tares are gathered up and burned with fire, so shall it be at ^athe ¹end of the age. **41** “^aThe Son of Man ^bwill send forth His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom ¹all ^cstumbling blocks, and those who commit lawlessness, **42** and ^awill cast them into the furnace of fire; in that place ^bthere shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. **43** “^aThen THE RIGHTEOUS WILL SHINE FORTH AS THE SUN in the kingdom of their Father. ^bHe who has ears, let him hear.

Hidden Treasure

44 ^a“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid; and from joy over it he goes and ^bsells all that he has, and buys that field.

A Costly Pearl

45 “Again, ^athe kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, ⁴⁶ and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had, and bought it.

A Dragnet

47 “Again, ^athe kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea, and gathering *fish* of every kind; ⁴⁸ and when it was filled, they drew it up on the beach; and they sat down, and gathered the good *fish* into containers, but the bad they threw away. ⁴⁹ “So it will be at ^athe ¹end of the age; the angels shall come forth, and ²take out the wicked from among the righteous, ⁵⁰ and ^awill cast them into the furnace of fire; ^bthere shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

51 “Have you understood all these things?” They *said to Him, “Yes.” **52** And He said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head of a household, who brings forth out of his treasure things new and old.”

Jesus Revisits Nazareth

53 ^aAnd it came about that when Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. **54** ^aAnd coming to ¹His home town He ²*began* teaching them in their synagogue, so that ^cthey became astonished, and said, “Where *did* this man *get* this wisdom, and *these* ³miraculous powers? **55** “Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not ^aHis mother called Mary, and His ^abrothers, James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? **56** “And ^aHis sisters, are they not all with us? Where then *did* this man *get* all these things?” **57** And they ¹took ^aoffense at Him. But Jesus said to them, “^bA prophet is not without honor except in his ²home town, and in his *own* household.” **58** And He did not do many ¹miracles there because of their unbelief.

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^a Matt. 9:28; 13:36

^b Matt. 13:1-15; *Mark 4:1-12; Luke 8:4-10*; Mark 2:13

^a Luke 5:3

^a Matt. 13:10ff.; Mark 4:2ff.

¹ Lit., *were not having*

¹ Lit., *upon*

^a Gen. 26:12; Matt. 13:23

^a Matt. 11:15; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22

^a Matt. 19:11; 20:23; John 6:65; 1 Cor. 2:10; Col. 1:27; 1 John 2:20, 27

^a Matt. 25:29; Mark 4:25; Luke 8:18; 19:26

^a Deut. 29:4; Is. 42:19, 20; Jer. 5:21; Ezek. 12:2

¹ Lit., *for them*

² Lit., *With a hearing you will hear*

^a Is. 6:9; Mark 4:12; Luke 8:10; John 12:40; Acts 28:26, 27; Rom. 10:16; 11:8

³ Lit., *and*

⁴ Lit., *seeing you will see*

^a Is. 6:10; Ps. 119:70; Zech. 7:11; Luke 19:42; John 8:43, 44; 2 Tim. 4:4; Heb. 5:11

^a Matt. 13:16, 17; *Luke 10:23, 24*; Matt. 16:17; John 20:29

^a John 8:56; Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 1:10-12

^a Matt. 13:18-23; *Mark 4:13-20; Luke 8:11-15*

^a Matt. 4:23

^b Matt. 5:37

¹ Lit., *is caused to stumble*

^a Matt. 11:6

^a Matt. 12:32; 13:39; Mark 4:19; Rom. 12:2; 1 Cor. 1:20; 2:6, 8; 3:18; 2 Cor. 4:4; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:2

¹ Or, *age*

^b Matt. 19:23; 1 Tim. 6:9, 10, 17

^a Matt. 13:8

^a Matt. 13:31, 33, 45, 47; 18:23; 20:1; 22:2; 25:1; Mark 4:26-30; Luke 13:18, 20

¹ Lit., *was compared to*

¹ Or, *darnel*, a weed resembling wheat

¹ Lit., *grass*

¹ Lit., *From where*

¹ Lit., *enemy man*

^a Matt. 3:12

^a Matt. 13:31, 32; *Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18, 19*; Matt. 13:24

^b Matt. 17:20; Luke 17:6

^a Ezek. 17:23; Ps. 104:12; Ezek. 31:6; Dan. 4:12

¹ Or, *sky*

^a Matt. 13:33; *Luke 13:21*; Matt. 13:24

^b Gen. 18:6; Judg. 6:19; 1 Sam. 1:24

¹ Gr., *sata*

^a Mark 4:34; John 10:6; 16:25

^a Ps. 78:2

^a Matt. 13:1

^b Matt. 15:15

¹ Or, *darnel*, a weed resembling wheat

^a Matt. 8:20

^a Matt. 8:12

^b John 8:44; Acts 13:10; 1 John 3:10

^c Matt. 5:37

^a Matt. 12:32; 13:22, 40, 49; 24:3; 28:20; 1 Cor. 10:11; Heb. 9:26

¹ Or, *consummation*

^a Matt. 12:32; 13:22, 39, 49; 24:3; 28:20; 1 Cor. 10:11; Heb. 9:26

¹ Or, *consummation*

^a Matt. 8:20

^b Matt. 24:31

¹ Or, *everything that is offensive*

^c Zeph. 1:3

^a Matt. 13:50

^b Matt. 8:12

^a Dan. 12:3

^b Matt. 11:15

^a Matt. 13:24

^b Matt. 13:46

^a Matt. 13:24

^a Matt. 13:44

^a Matt. 13:39, 40

¹ Or, *consummation*

² Or, *separate*

^a Matt. 13:42

^b Matt. 8:12

^a Matt. 7:28

^a Matt. 13:54-58: *Mark 6:1-6*

¹ Or, *His own part of the country*

² Or, *was teaching*

^b Matt. 4:23

^c Matt. 7:28

³ Or, *miracles*

^a Matt. 12:46

^a Matt. 12:46

^a Mark 6:3

¹ Lit., *were being made to stumble*

^a Matt. 11:6

^b Mark 6:4; Luke 4:24; John 4:44

² Or, *own part of the country*

¹ Or, *works of power*

ⁱ *The New American Standard Bible*, (La Habra, California: The Lockman Foundation) 1977.