

**Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont**  
**Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit**  
**Sunday school Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon**  
**July 16, 2023~Lesson 7**

**Unit II: Jesus Envisions the Kingdom**  
**Subject: Growing Strong**  
**Devotional Reading Psalm 95**

**Background Scriptures: Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4; Luke 8:5-15**  
**Printed Passage: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

**Introduction**

This lesson finds Jesus teaching about four soil types, that result in plants maturing and/or not maturing into their fruitfulness. Jesus taught this lesson by way of a Parable that the listeners found to be confusing. The question arose in Matthew 13:10 Why Parables. The answer, Because it is given unto YOU to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

- **PARABLE TOLD (Matthew 13:1-9)**

In the parable of the Sower we find Jesus, in verses 1-9 teaching to the people a gardening lesson. Jesus is teaching in a house and moving to the coast and eventually into a boat. Although this is referred to as the parable of the Sower, it is more about the soil Matthew 13:1-2. JESUS spoke to his listeners about a farmer spreading seeds along the ground (Matthew 13: 3).

Matthew 13: 4, “Some fell by the wayside,” this refers to the most traveled path. When the seed fell upon this soil it just sat on top and waited. Because it was readily available it became food for any passing bird.

Matthew 13: 5-6 speaks of “stony ground”, there is real room for the roots to take hold. This seed could not dig into deep soil to place its roots and was scorched by the sun and was burned.

Matthew 13: 7 speaks of the seed that “fell among thorns.” The seed germinates beneath the soil absorbing water and sun. But growing with thorns the bad weed choked out the good seed and did not leave room for them to grow alongside and the good seed dies.

And in Matthew 13: 8, we find the seed that “fell into good ground.” It grew and produce an abundant crop, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold and some thirtyfold. This parable ends with “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” In the Greek hear is “Akouo,” meaning “to pay attention to with the intent of hearing what is communicated.”

**PARABLE UNFOLD (Matthew 13:18-23)**

The Sower is Jesus. The Seed is the Good News of the Kingdom of God. The Soil is the heart. And the Bird is Satan.

In Verse 4, “Some fell by the wayside”, Matthew 13: 19 explains that when the Sower spreads the Seed by the wayside, and it just sits there and The Bird which is Satan coming by and snatches it right up. It never has the

opportunity to grow because the heart is too hard for the seed to take root. In Matthew 13: 20-21 refers back to Matthew 13: 5-6 where he speaks of “stony ground,” this portion of the parable speaks of the ear that hears the word of God, yet it is not received in the heart. And then in Matthew 13: 22 refers to Matthew 13: 7 that speaks of the seed that “fell among thorns.” The scriptures says, “it is someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.” The seed choked by thorns represents the person who hears Jesus’ proclamation, but “the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke and nullify the WORD.” Matthew 13: 23, referring back to Matthew 13: 8, where we find the seed that “fell into good ground.” This is the ear that hears and the heart that understands. In understanding, it produces a fruitful crop. A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. I pray you were able to get something from this lesson.

**Growing Strong!**