

Jesus' Parable of The Sower

Lesson 2

The Sower, The Seed And The
Hardened Soil Beside The Road

An Introduction To Jesus' Parables

- A parable is an earthly story designed to teach a spiritual lesson through a comparison
- Jesus taught parables to separate hardened hearts from humble and honest hearts

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Introduction

- In His parable of the sower, Jesus reveals the power of the Word of God to change human hearts
- But, the Word of God can be prevented from changing our hearts if we choose to sinfully react toward it
- We study this parable so we may overcome rebellion to His Word by humbly receiving and obeying it so we may be saved

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The Sower, The Seed And The Hardened Soil Beside The Road

Jesus speaks the parable of the sower
The sower and the seed explained
The soil beside the road explained

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Jesus Speaks The Parable Of The Sower

Mat 13:1 That day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea.

Mat 13:2 And large crowds gathered to Him, so He got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd was standing on the beach.

Mat 13:3 And He spoke many things to them in parables, saying, "Behold, the sower went out to sow;

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Jesus Speaks The Parable Of The Sower

Luk 8:5 "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.

Mat 13:5 "Others fell on the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

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Jesus Speaks The Parable Of The Sower

Mat 13:6 "But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Mar 4:7 "Other *seed* fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked it, and it yielded no crop.

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Jesus Speaks The Parable Of The Sower

Mar 4:8 "Other *seeds* fell into the good soil, and as they grew up and increased, they yielded a crop and produced thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

Mar 4:9 And He was saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

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The Sower And The Seed Explained

The sower is not specifically identified in this parable

Luk 8:11 "Now the parable is this: the seed is the word of God.

Mat 13:19 "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it,...

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The Soil Beside The Road Explained

Luk 8:5 "The sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell beside the road, and it was trampled under foot and the birds of the air ate it up.

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The Soil Beside The Road Explained

- The paths, where people walked, passed right through the fields
- The soil of the road and that beside it was hardened so that if seeds fell there, they would have no chance of growing
- The seeds on the hardened soil were trampled by people and became food for the birds

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The Soil Beside The Road Explained

Mat 13:19 "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 the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

Luk 8:12 "Those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they will not believe and be saved.

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The Soil Beside The Road Explained

- This soil represents the hardened heart that will not receive the Word of God
- Jesus described the crowd to whom He spoke this parable as having made the choice to harden their hearts against the Word of God

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Much of The Crowd Hearing The Parable Was Hardened

Mat 13:13 "Therefore I speak to them in parables; because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

Mat 13:14 "In their case the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says, 'YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;'

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Much of The Crowd Hearing The Parable Was Hardened

Mat 13:15 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD SEE WITH THEIR EYES, HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM.'

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The Soil Beside The Road Explained

- The Devil uses various means to harden hearts such as religious and worldly lies or sinful and non-sinful distractions
- Although Satan provides the means to harden hearts against God's Word, each individual chooses to be hardened

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The Devil Uses Different Methods To Harden Hearts

2Co 4:3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,
2Co 4:4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

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The Devil Uses Different Methods To Harden Hearts

Eph 4:17 So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind,

Eph 4:18 being darkened in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their heart;

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The Devil Uses Different Methods To Harden Hearts

Eph 4:19 and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness.

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We Choose To Be Hardened By Satan's Schemes

Act 28:23 When they had set a day for Paul, they came to him at his lodging in large numbers; and he was explaining to them by solemnly testifying about the kingdom of God and trying to persuade them concerning Jesus, from both the Law of Moses and from the Prophets, from morning until evening.

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We Choose To Be Hardened By Satan's Schemes

Act 28:24 Some were being persuaded by the things spoken, but others would not believe.

Act 28:25 And when they did not agree with one another, they *began* leaving after Paul had spoken one *parting* word, "The Holy Spirit rightly spoke through Isaiah the prophet to your fathers,

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We Choose To Be Hardened By Satan's Schemes

Act 28:26 saying, 'GO TO THIS PEOPLE AND SAY, "YOU WILL KEEP ON HEARING, BUT WILL NOT UNDERSTAND; AND YOU WILL KEEP ON SEEING, BUT WILL NOT PERCEIVE;

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We Choose To Be Hardened By Satan's Schemes

Act 28:27 FOR THE HEART OF THIS PEOPLE HAS BECOME DULL, AND WITH THEIR EARS THEY SCARCELY HEAR, AND THEY HAVE CLOSED THEIR EYES; OTHERWISE THEY MIGHT SEE WITH THEIR EYES, AND HEAR WITH THEIR EARS, AND UNDERSTAND WITH THEIR HEART AND RETURN, AND I WOULD HEAL THEM."

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The Soil Beside The Road Explained

- Beware that we don't become hardened
- Like Paul, the hardened heart can become good and honest obeying the Word of God

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Beware – Christians Can Become Hardened

Heb 3:12 Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

Heb 3:13 But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Heb 3:14 For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

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Beware – Christians Can Become Hardened

Heb 5:11 Concerning him we have much to say, and *it is* hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing.

Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food.

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Beware – Christians Can Become Hardened

Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes *only* of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant.

Heb 5:14 But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil.

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Paul – A Hardened Heart Becomes Good And Honest

Act 22:4 "I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons,

Act 22:16 'Now why do you delay? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on His name.'

Act 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized;

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