

Introduction:

I. The Parables Theme Identified...

A. The context and timing... Matthew 12:46-51 cf. 31:1

B. Consider the Crowd... Matthew 13:2

C. Jesus taught using parables...

1. To illustrate profound truth concerning the Kingdom...
2. There are guidelines for interpreting the parables of Jesus...

D. The theme of this parable is the varied reactions of people upon hearing the Gospel...

Observations:

1. For our encouragement remember *John 10:27 cf. I Corinthians 1:21*
2. For our understanding... there will be a negative response to the Gospel...
3. Don't over interpret the parables...
4. There is practical value to the true believer...

II. The Parables Proclamation... Matthew 13:3-8

A. The sower and the seed... vs. 3-4a

B. The four types of soil, which the seed falls upon... vs. 4-8

1. The path... vs. 4
2. Rocky ground... vs. 5-6
3. Thorny ground... vs. 7
4. Good soil... vs. 8

C. Note Jesus' exhortation to pay close attention... vs. 9

III. The Parables Explanation... vs. 18-23

A. The Hard Hearted Hearer... vs. 19

B. The Shallow Hearer... vs. 20-21

C. The Worldly Hearer... vs. 22

D. The Open Hearted Hearer... vs. 23

Application: