

INTRODUCTION: FIRST THINGS FIRST

- A. SAT: AUTHORITATIVE TEACHING** (Mk.4:1,2,2;9; Mt.13:1,2; 3,9 see Mt.7:29; Mk.1:22; Ps.107:32)
- B. SUFFICIENT: LARGE, MANY** (Mt.13:2,3; Mk.4:1,2; Lk.8:4; see Mt.13:13f; Jn.6:12f,26f)
- C. THE PRIMARY PARABLE** (Mk.4:13; see 3; Mt.13:3)
- D. AN INTEGRATED WHOLE** (Mt.13:3&53(Mk.4:1&33f); see 24,31,33; 44,45,47,52)
- E. UNEXPLAINED PARABLES** (Mt.13:31f; Mk.4:30f; see Mk.4:13; note: Mt.13:10f,36f,49f)
- F. NARRATION PRIMARY** (Mt.13:1-9/18-23; 24-30/36-43)
- G. HEAR! THE PARABLE ITSELF** (Mk.4:3,9; see Mt.13:9; Lk.8:8; see Mt.11:15)

I. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: NARRATED (Mt.13:1-9; Mk.4:1-9; Lk.8:4-8)

- A. FOCUS: SOWER, SOW, SEED** (Lk.8:5; see Mt.13:3; Mk.4:3)
- B. THREE CASES OF CROP FAILURE**
 - 1. *along the path: not even germinate* (Mt.13:4; Mk.4:4; Lk.8:5)
 - 2. *on thin soil: germinate but not grow* (Mt.13:5,6; Mk.4:5,6; Lk.8:6)
 - 3. *in thorn seeds: grew but no fruit* (Lk.8:7; see Mt.13:7; Mk.4:7)
 - 4. *summary: eaten, withered, choked*
- C. THREE CASES OF BUMPER CROP**
 - 1. *good soil, good fruit* (Mt.13:8a; Mk.4:8a; Lk.8:8a)
 - 2. *superabundance: 30,60,100* (Mt.13:8b(25:15); Mk.4:8b; Lk.8:8b)
 - 3. *summary: grew, increased, yielded* (Mk.4:8c)
- D. HEARD: SOIL MAKES THE DIFFERENCE** (Mt.13:9; Mk.4:9; Lk.8:8c)

II. RELEVANT IMAGES OF SOWING IN THE BIBLE (see Lk.8:4,1f)

- A. SOWER: GOD SOWS** (see Jezreel; Jer.31:27; Ezk.36:9,11; Hos.2:22f /Mt..13:37 /1Cor.3:6 /2Cor.9:10)
- B. SOWING: SOILS SEEN AND/OR UNSEEN**
 - 1. *universal sowing despite improbabilities* (sow-plow; e.g. Egypt; Eccl.11:6; 2Cor.9:6)
 - 2. *secret soils become manifest* (plow-sow; Is.28:25)
- C. SEED**
 - 1. *new life, increase: plants, animals, man* (Gen.1:11,21f; 3:15; 22:17; Ps.126:5f; Jer.31:27; 2Cor.9:10)
 - 2. *qualities, virtues* (Ps.97:11; 1Cor.9:11; Jms.3:18)
 - 3. *words* (Jms.1:21(1Th.1:6; 2:13); 1Pt.1:23(1Jn.3:9); see Is.55:10f)
- D. SOILS**
 - 1. *hard/birds* (Jer.16:4; see Dt.28:26; Ps.79:2; see Ps.95:8)
 - 2. *thin/sun* (Ps.121:6; 72:16; contrast Hos.2:22f)
 - 3. *infested/thorns* (Gen.3:17f; 2Kngs.14:9; Is.55:13; Acts 7:30; Heb.6:8)
 - 4. *good: soft, deep, pure* (Gen.1:12; 2:8/3:18; Is.5:2f; Jer.4:3f; 17:8; Ezk.17:5)
- E. HARVEST**
 - 1. *fruit: faithfulness to the word* (2Cor.9:10; Col.1:10; Jms.1:21f; 3:18; see Mt.12:50f; Mk.3:35f; 8:1f)
 - 2. *fruitful: blessing* (Gen.1:22,28; 9:1; Lev.26:4f; Dt.7:13; 28:4f)
 - 3. *barren: curse* (Heb.6:8; see Gen.3:17f; 4:11f; Lev.26:16; Dt.11:17; 28:17f; Hos.8:7; Is.5:2f; 34:13)

III. POINTS OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER NARRATED (Mt.13:1-9; Mk.4:1-9; Lk.8:4-8)

- A. LISTEN! BEHOLD!** (Mk.4:3,9; Lk.8:8; see Mt.13:9; 2Tm.3:14f; see Ezk.3:27; 33:32f; 2Tm.4:2f)
- B. PARABLES AND THE POWER OF DISCOVERY** (Mk.4:3,9; see Mt.13:44-46; Prov.2:4,1f)
- C. BE FRUITFUL! DO THE FATHER'S WILL** (Mt.12:50f; Mk.3:35f; 8:1f /2C.9:10; Col.1:10; Jms.1:21f; 3:18)
- D. BE SOWN BY GOD** (Mt.13:1,etc. /Jezreel; Jer.31:27; Ezk.36:9,11; Hos.2:22f /Mt..13:37 /1Cor.3:6 /2Cor.9:10)
- E. KNOW YOUR SOIL BY YOUR FRUIT** (Mt.12:33; 13:1f,etc.; see Heb.6:7,8)
- F. DISCERN CAUSES OF BARRENNESS & TURN TO GOD** (Mt.13:1f; see 18f /Mk9:24; Col.3:9,10; 5f,12f)
- G. MAKE THE SOIL GOOD** (Mt.12:33; 13:8,1f; see Jn.15:4; Ps.40:6; Lk.11:13; 1Cor.2:12-16)