

ALL CHRISTIANS' FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: Parable of the Sower

TEXT: *Matthew 13:1-23*

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Have you ever wondered why the same book or the same sermon will produce strikingly different results in different people? How is it, for instance, that some people seem unable to grasp the simplest and most obvious spiritual truths while others are transformed by them? Jesus' most important parable tells why. I call it his "most important" because it provides more clues than any other parable as to the nature of parables and how they should be interpreted. The parable is followed by Christ's own interpretation and discussion of its contents. It is an excellent place to begin our study of the parables.

Discussion questions:

1. Why are some people more open to spiritual things than others? Give examples.
2. This parable well-suited to the personal experiences of the crowds gathered around Jesus (Vs. 1-9). To what extent can we say this parable is relevant to our experiences in the church today?
3. In verse 10 the disciples ask Jesus, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" How would you explain Jesus's response to them (Vs. 11-16)? Could there be no exception in today's church?
4. How do parables help Jesus' followers understand his kingdom but hinder the understanding of those who do not follow him closely (Vs. 12-17)?

5. In verses 18-23 Jesus explains the meaning of this parable to his disciples. The seed is the message of the kingdom (v. 19). How would you characterize who the farmer, and the soil are?

6. Satanic "birds" destroyed the value of God's word for the first group of people. Why? Explain what this group of people in the congregation lacks (v. 19)?

7. Verses 20-21 describe the kind of person referred to as stony or rocky soil. What examples have you seen of people who respond this way?

8. What kind of person does the third type of soil describe (v. 22)? Describe how we can avoid being choked by the weeds and thorns and tell us some practical examples of how we can become "good soil" (Vs. 23)?

9. What can we do to help people in our lives understand God's message?