

# The Parable of the SOWER



The Church at Ephesus  
and its corresponding Church Age  
Under the Roman Empire  
(33 A.D. to 100 A.D.)

A Sower went forth to sow and...



Matthew 13:3-9, "Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. <sup>6</sup> "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. <sup>7</sup> "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" (Ref. Mt.18-22, Mk.4:1, Lu.8:4)



he Parable of the Sower does not begin with "The kingdom of heaven is like" because it describes how the kingdom begins. It begins with the preaching of the Word, the planting of the seed in the hearts of people. When we say, "Let me plant this thought in your mind," we express the idea of this parable.

The seed is God's Word, the various soils represent different kinds of hearts, and the varied results show the different responses to the Word of God. Let us look at four main points brought out in the parable of Matthew 13:3-9.

1. Some seed **fell by the wayside** and birds came and ate the seed. In v19 Jesus explains that this is the person who hears the Word but does not understand it. Satan will come and steal what truth he has from out of a person's heart.
2. Some seed fell upon **stony places**, where there was not much soil to root themselves. As they began to grow they withered away because they did not have enough soil to root themselves in. In v20 Jesus relates the stony places with those who receive the Word with joy but, because he is not rooted in the Scriptures, will fall away when times of trial and persecution come.
3. Some seed fell among the **thorns**, the thorns sprang up and choked the seed and the seed never grew and died away. In v22 Jesus tells us that the person receives the Word but the cares of this life and the pursuit of riches will choke the Word within him and he will be unfruitful.
4. Some seed fell on **good ground**; it grew and produced much fruit, some 100 times, some 60 times, some 30 times as much fruit. In v23 Jesus likens the "good ground" to those who hear the Word and understand it. They will also bear fruit, some more than others, but still they will bear fruit.

The Parable of the Sower is a picture of the church at Ephesus, the backslidden and loveless church, and to its prophetic dispensation. It is the church that left her first love.

The Ephesus period of church history was the beginning of the church age. The seed (Word of God) was being sowed into men's hearts. There were those who heard the Word, but did not understand it. Satan came and stole what truth they did have out of their heart. Some who had received the Word and for a season grew in the Word, but never became rooted in the Word. In time, when trials and persecution came, they fell away. Still others let the cares of life and the pursuit of things choke out the Word and they became unfruitful. For those who receive the Word and become grounded in it, it will change their lives and they bear fruit and carry the Gospel message to other people and nations. With this group, the Great Commission found its starting point and people's lives began to be changed.

So ends the message to the church of Ephesus and to its corresponding church age 33-100 A.D.