

# The Life and Mission of Jesus Christ on Earth

Lesson Seventeen - Matthew 13:1-23; Mark. 4:1-25; Luke. 8:4-18

## Summary of Lesson

The events of Luke 11-37—13:9, which we studied in our previous lesson (that is, the account of Jesus dining with a Pharisee and His condemnation of that sect; His discourse to His disciples; His command regarding repentance and the parable of the barren fig tree), all occurred in Capernaum. On the same day as these events, Jesus left Capernaum and went down to the seaside (Galilee, see location of Capernaum on a map) where He spoke several parables to the multitudes gathered there to hear Him. In this lesson we are studying the parable of the sower and the explanation of it given by Jesus, in which He also explained to His disciples why He spoke in parables.

WHAT IS A PARABLE? - The word "parable" comes from the Greek word PARABALLO, which means "I place beside;" that is, in order to compare; hence it signifies the idea of comparing together. A parable, then, is the placing of a narrative describing and ordinary event in natural life along side of and implies spiritual principle for the purpose of illustrating the latter. It is a narrative of some fictitious or real event, in order to illustrate more clearly some truth that the speaker wishes to communicate.

## Matthew 13:1-23

{1} On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. {2} And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. {3} Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. {4} "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. {5} "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. {6} "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. {7} "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. {8} "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. {9} "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!" {10} And the disciples came and said to Him, "Why do You speak to them in parables?" {11} He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it

has not been given. {12} "For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. {13} "Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. {14} "And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, And seeing you will see and not perceive; {15} For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' {16} "But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; {17} "for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. {18} "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: {19} "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his

heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. {20} “But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; {21} “yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. {22} “Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. {23} “But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

### Mark 4:1-25

{1} And again He began to teach by the sea. And a great multitude was gathered to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat in it on the sea; and the whole multitude was on the land facing the sea. {2} Then He taught them many things by parables, and said to them in His teaching: {3} “Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. {4} “And it happened, as he sowed, that some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds of the air came and devoured it. {5} “Some fell on stony ground, where it did not have much earth; and immediately it sprang up because it had no depth of earth. {6} “But when the sun was up it was scorched, and because it had no root it withered away. {7} “And some seed fell among thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no crop. {8} “But other seed fell on good ground and yielded a crop that sprang up, increased and produced: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” {9} And He said to them, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” {10} But when He was alone, those around Him with the twelve asked Him about the parable. {11} And He said to them, “To you it has been given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to those who are outside, all things come in parables, {12} “so that ‘Seeing they may see and not perceive, And hearing they may hear and not understand; Lest they should turn, And their sins be forgiven them.’” {13} And He said to them, “Do you not understand this parable? How then will you un-

derstand all the parables? {14} “The sower sows the word. {15} “And these are the ones by the wayside where the word is sown. When they hear, Satan comes immediately and takes away the word that was sown in their hearts. {16} “These likewise are the ones sown on stony ground who, when they hear the word, immediately receive it with gladness; {17} “and they have no root in themselves, and so endure only for a time. Afterward, when tribulation or persecution arises for the word’s sake, immediately they stumble. {18} “Now these are the ones sown among thorns; they are the ones who hear the word, {19} “and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. {20} “But these are the ones sown on good ground, those who hear the word, accept it, and bear fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some a hundred.” {21} Also He said to them, “Is a lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Is it not to be set on a lampstand? {22} “For there is nothing hidden which will not be revealed, nor has anything been kept secret but that it should come to light. {23} “If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear.” {24} Then He said to them, “Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. {25} “For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.”

### Luke 8:4-18

{4} And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable: {5} “A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. {6} “Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. {7} “And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. {8} “But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” {9} Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What

does this parable mean?" {10} And He said, "To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that 'Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.' {11} "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. {12} "Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. {13} "But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. {14} "Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are

choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. {15} "But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience. {16} "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a vessel or puts it under a bed, but sets it on a lampstand, that those who enter may see the light. {17} "For nothing is secret that will not be revealed, nor anything hidden that will not be known and come to light. {18} "Therefore take heed how you hear. For whoever has, to him more will be given; and whoever does not have, even what he seems to have will be taken from him."

## Questions On Lesson Seventeen

1. Who had desired to see and hear the thing which the disciples were privileged to see and hear?
  2. "He that hath an \_\_\_\_\_ to hear, \_\_\_\_\_ him \_\_\_\_\_."
  3. Those whose spiritual lives are choked with cares and riches and pleasures in this life do not do what?
  4. What happened to the seed that fell by the wayside?
  5. Who is like the seed which fell in good ground?
  6. What question did the disciples ask Jesus after He spoke the parable of the sower to them?
  7. "And he taught them \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_ and said unto them in his \_\_\_\_\_."
  8. What is wrong with the heart of some to whom Jesus spoke these parables?
  9. Unto whom did Jesus compare the seed which fell on stony ground?
  10. In what measure did the seed which fell in good ground bring forth?
  11. What conditions are necessary in order for a man to be converted and healed by Christ?
  12. Where was Jesus sitting when He taught the multitude by the seaside?
  13. What was given to the disciples to know?
  14. Who is like the seed which fell among the thorns?
  15. In the parable of the sower, unto what is the seed compared?
  16. What did the thorns do to the seed which fell among them?
  17. Who had prophesied concerning those who refused to hear and understand Jesus?
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