

## **Lessons in Sowing Faithfulness**

Lesson 2

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

July 24, 2022

### **Planting on Hard and Rocky Ground**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

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***Memory verse: "The disciples came to him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?' He replied, 'Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.'"—Matthew 13:10-11***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

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2. Keeping in mind that Jesus was teaching in parables, why would a new believer's faith fail on a well-trodden path? (Matthew 13:19; Mark 4:15; Luke 8:12)
3. Which of the three verses cited in question #2 is most explicit, and who was the writer?
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1. What can you do to revive the faith and joy once experienced by a seeker after he/she has tripped on rocky ground? (Jeremiah 42:2-3; Mark 4:9; Romans 10:1-17, 14:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:15; James 5:20)

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2. Keeping in mind that Jesus was teaching in parables, why would a new believer's faith fail on a well-trodden path? (Matthew 13:19; Mark 4:15; Luke 8:12)
3. Which of the three verses cited in question #2 is most explicit, and who was the writer?
4. If people receive God's word with joy, why does it not take root? (Matthew 13:20-21; Mark 4:16-17; Luke 8:13)

5. What was Jesus' reply when disciples asked Him the meaning of the parable? (Luke 8:9-10)

**INTERPRETATION: What do the passages mean?**

1. Why did Matthew and Mark believe it important to note Jesus in a boat (Matthew 13:1-2; Mark 4:1) while Luke did not? (Luke 8:4)
  
2. Of the first two examples given for a believer's apostasy, which group might be more likely to return to faith, and why? (Luke 8:5-6, 12-13)
  
3. Why are the narratives of Matthew and Mark nearly identical while Luke's is more condensed? (Scripture does not answer question. Consult commentary.)

4. Matthew, Mark, and Luke reported Jesus saying, "Whoever has ears, let them hear." What did Jesus mean? (Matthew 13:9; Mark 4:9; Luke 8:8)

**APPLICATION: How do the passages apply to your life?**

1. What can you do to revive the faith and joy once experienced by a seeker after he/she has tripped on rocky ground? (Jeremiah 42:2-3; Mark 4:9; Romans 10:1-17, 14:19; 2 Thessalonians 3:15; James 5:20)

2. We Christians are surrounded by atheists on the hard path with whom we interact, usually in casual conversation. "How's your day going?" is asked frequently by unknown store clerks or bank tellers. What are some answers you can offer that are non-aggressive and friendly, indicating that you are a joyful Christian?

3. Everyone has relatives and friends who are not ready to accept Christ. Write their names on paper as a reminder, and pray for them daily.

## **Lessons in Sowing Faithfulness**

Lesson 2

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 8:4-15

July 24, 2022

### **Planting on Hard and Rocky Ground**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Parables were the backbone of Jesus' teaching. Of His thirty-nine parables recorded in the gospels, only seven were cited by the writers, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. One of those seven parables, "The Sower", is the focus of this lesson and the next lesson for July 31<sup>st</sup>.

"The Sower" is one of Jesus' few parables that is applicable to modern life, and by so being, also becomes a memorable one. Other parables may seem too "first-century" or of another culture or region. After all, how many people can relate to tales concerning barren fig trees, old wineskins, or candles under a bushel?

Soil, however, is constant and always around us. Each time a spade turns the earth, thoughts should awaken to The Person who provided the soil (and the people turning it) in the first place. It's another reminder of how creative and generous is our God. Remarkably, that Jesus would depict the Word as "seed" to be planted in all types of soil (i.e., people) is genius.

***Memory verse: "The disciples came to him and asked, 'Why do you speak to the people in parables?' He replied, 'Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them.'"—Matthew 13:10-11***

Pray, and read the passages listed above. What questions or observations do you have about them?

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