

## Lesson VII.

JESUS TEACHING BY PARABLES— February 17, 1918  
FOUR KINDS OF GROUND

Mark 4 : 1-8, 14-20. Study Mark 4 : 1-20. \*Scripture Memory Verse, 1 Sam. 3 : 9.

**Golden Text**—Take heed therefore how ye hear.—Luke 8 : 18.

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1 And he began again to teach by the sea side : and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea ; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land.

2 And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,

3 Hearken ; Behold, there went out a sower to sow :

4 And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up,

5 And some fell on stony ground, where it had not 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 fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.

8 And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased ; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.

14 The sower soweth the word.

15 And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown ; but when they have heard, Sa'tan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

16 And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground ; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness ;

17 And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time : afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.

18 And these are they which are sown among thorns ; such as hear the word,

19 And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

20 And these are they which are sown on good ground ; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

## THE LESSON RETOLD

Boys and girls in the long ago days were just as fond of hearing stories as you are, and grown up men and women too loved to hear stories, for in those days there were no story books such as you have, and no books for the "grownups" either.

Jesus knew that everybody liked stories, so he often told the people stories that would teach them some good lesson which he wanted them to learn. These stories were called parables. We have heard that Jesus was the most wonderful doctor that ever lived, and the most wonderful preacher. He was also the most wonderful teacher that ever lived. His schoolroom was the seashore, and the hill-sides and the country roads and city streets and the homes of the people. Wherever people were, there was Jesus' schoolroom.

One day a great crowd followed him to the seashore. He got into a little boat and asked the man to row him out a bit, so everybody could see and hear him. Then he told them this story.

Once upon a time a sower went out to sow wheat in his field. Our picture shows us what the sower looked like. There was a path through the field. It was hard and dry and nothing could grow in it. The seed that fell there was immediately picked up by the birds. Some seed fell on stony ground where there was not much earth. It soon sprang up, but when the sun was up it was scorched with the heat and withered away. Some seed fell amongst thorns and the thorns grew up and choked it, so it did not bear any wheat. But some seed fell upon good ground, and it

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