

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

June 19, 1910

Matthew 13 : 1-9, 18-23.—Memory Verse, 23.

Golden Text—Wherefore putting away all filthiness and overflowing of wickedness, receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.—James 1 : 21.



1 The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side.

2 And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat ; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

3 And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow ;

4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up :

5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth : and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth :

6 And 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 sprung up, and choked them :

8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.

9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

19 When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side.

20 But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it ;

21 Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while : for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.

22 He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word ; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches choke the

word, and he becometh unfruitful.

23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it ; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

THE LESSON RETOLD

One day Jesus got into a little fishing boat, and pushing off a short distance from shore, He began to preach to those who sat on the land.

This day Jesus began a new kind of preaching, and for the first time made use of parables. A parable is a story which teaches us some lesson, and these parables of Jesus were intended to make His message very plain and simple.

The first story or parable that Jesus told the people, as He sat in the boat, was this : " There was once a farmer ", He said, " who went out to sow his seed, and he scattered it by handfuls over the ground. As he sowed, some of the seed fell upon the hard-beaten path that ran along the edge of the field, and the birds flew down and ate it. Some fell on stony places, where there was only a little earth. Here it quickly grew up, but because it had no depth of root, it withered almost immediately. And some fell along the side of the field, where thorns were growing, and

the thorns choked the good seed, so that it also bore no fruit. But the rest of the seed fell upon good ground that had been ploughed and made ready to receive it, and it grew up and flourished and yielded an abundant harvest."

But when the people had gone, the disciples came and asked their Master to explain to them the meaning of the parable. " What is meant by the seed ? " they asked. Jesus said, " The seed is the Word of God which I preach to you."

He also told them that the wayside ground represented the people who were too careless to give attention to God's message. Again, some who heard Him, remembered His words and tried for a little while to obey them, but as soon as they had trouble or were blamed by others for doing it, they ceased trying and forgot them. These were like the seed that fell on the stony ground and sprang up quickly at first, but, in a few days, withered away. Others heard Jesus preach, and were glad to