

LESSON VIII.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

May 20, 1900

Matt. 13: 1-8 and 18-23. Commit to memory vs. 22, 23. Read Matt. 12: 22 to 13: 23; Luke 8: 1-4.

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.

18 Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Revised Version—1 On that; 2 There were gathered unto him great multitudes; 3 Entered into a boat; 4 All the multitude; 5 Beach; 6 To them many things; 7 As he sowed; 8 *Omit* up; 9 And others fell upon the rocky places; 10 Straightway they sprung up; 11 Risen; 12 Others fell upon the thorns; 13 Grew up; 14 And others fell upon the good ground; 15 Yielded; 16 Sixty; 17 Thirty; 18 Hear then ye; 19 Evil; 20 *Stratched*; 21 Hath been; 22 That was sown; 23 And he that was sown upon the rocky places, this is he; 24 Straightway; 25 Endureth; 26 And; 27 Straightway he stumbleth; 28 And he that was sown; 29 The; 30 And he that was sown upon; 31 Who verily.

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, 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.

EXPLANATION

See Connection—Following on the last Lesson, there came a tour in Galilee (Luke 8: 1-3), then the healing of a blind and dumb demoniac, and the discourses that followed (Matt. 12: 22-45; 8: 22-30), and the visit of His mother and brethren (Matt. 12: 46-50). When the people saw the miracle, they said that He was the Messiah. This so enraged the rulers against Jesus, that for a time He could not speak as plainly as He would, but had to speak in parables (Matt. 12: 22-24 and 13: 10-13).

1, 2. **The same day**; as the healing of the demoniac and the rebuke of the Pharisees. **And sat**; the usual attitude in teaching. **Went into a ship** (boat); to avoid the pressure of the crowd (Luke 5: 1).

3. **He spake . . . in parables**. A parable is a short story illustrating some great truth. The word means "a placing side by side." To avoid the opposition of the rulers, Jesus wrapped the truth up in this form of teaching. Those who could would understand. **Behold a sower**. The sower going forth in the morning from the village to sow was a familiar picture.

4-8. **The wayside**; the beaten path running through or between the fields. **The fowls**. Hungry birds were always near to pick up the scattered grain. **Stony places**. Flat stretches of rock covered with a shallow soil. The sun warming the rock, would cause quick growth and as quick withering. **Among thorns**; a strong and rapidly-growing prickly plant. **Choked them**; by robbing the grain of soil nourishment and

shutting out the sunlight. **Good ground**; rich, clean and mellow. **Brought forth fruit**; yielded a harvest. **An hundredfold**; a hundred times as much as sown.

18, 19. **Hear ye, etc.** He explains why He speaks in parables (10-17), and then interprets the parables to His disciples. **The word of the kingdom**. The message of salvation. **Understandeth it not**; literally, "not taking it in," as the beaten wayside could not take in the seed that fell upon it. **The wicked one**; Satan (v. 39). **Catcheth away**; by many agencies, such as worldly thoughts and selfish and sinful desires.

20, 21. **Stony places**; the class of v. 5. **Anon**; straightway. **With joy**. The word should always be received with joy, but here we have the shallow, excitable hearer, whose joy is all on the surface, while the heart, like the rocky soil, is hard and unchanged. **By and by**; immediately. **Is offended**; literally, "is stumbled," by tribulation or persecution, which should stimulate to steadfastness—not stumble—one who is in earnest.

22, 23. **Among the thorns**; the class of v. 7. Here the soil is good, but full of weeds. **The care of this world, etc.** Like rank thorns, they take the good from the soil and shut out the sunlight of God's favor. **Good ground**; soft, deep and clean—the heart made right by the Holy Spirit. **Understandeth it**; with mind and spirit. **Beareth fruit**; holiness of heart and life. **An hundredfold . . . sixty . . . thirty**; even all good soils not equally fruitful.