

The Parable of the Sower

Verses arranged so the parallel passages can be compared.
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Previous context - The parable and this event are linked together; for the parable explains Jesus' comments. *Chronologically*, this event occurred before the parable (same day); but Luke places it *logically*, following the type of "ground" that best represents what Jesus meant when he said it.

Matthew 12	Mark 3	Luke 8 (not placed chronologically)
<p>⁴⁶ While he was yet speaking to the multitudes, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, seeking to speak to him.</p>	<p>³¹ His mother and his brothers came, and standing outside, they sent to him, calling him.</p> <p>³² A multitude was sitting around him,</p>	<p>¹⁹ His mother and brothers came to him,</p> <p>and they could not come near him for the crowd.</p>
<p>⁴⁷ One said to him, "Behold, your mother and your brothers stand outside, seeking to speak to you."</p>	<p>and they told him, "Behold, your mother, your brothers, and your sisters are outside looking for you."</p>	<p>²⁰ It was told him by some saying, "Your mother and your brothers stand outside, desiring to see you."</p>
<p>⁴⁸ But he answered him who spoke to him, "Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?"</p>	<p>³³ He answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?"</p>	
<p>⁴⁹ He stretched out his hand towards his disciples, and said, "Behold, my mother and my brothers!</p>	<p>³⁴ Looking around at those who sat around him, he said, "Behold, my mother and my brothers!</p>	<p>²¹ But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers</p>
<p>⁵⁰ For whoever does the will of my Father who is in heaven, he is my brother, and sister, and mother."</p>	<p>³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother."</p>	<p>are these who hear the word of God, and do it."</p>

The parable of the sower

Matthew 13	Mark 4	Luke 8
<p>¹ On that day Jesus went out of the house, and sat by the seaside.</p>	<p>¹ Again he began to teach by the seaside.</p>	
<p>² Great multitudes gathered to him,</p>	<p>A great multitude was gathered to him,</p>	<p>⁴ When a great multitude came together, and people from every city were coming to him,</p>
<p>so that he entered into a boat, and sat, and all the multitude stood on the beach.</p>	<p>so that he entered into a boat in the sea, and sat down. All the multitude were on the land by the sea.</p>	
<p>³ He spoke to them many things in parables, saying,</p>	<p>² He taught them many things in parables, and told them in his teaching,</p>	<p>he spoke by a parable.</p>

Matthew 13	Mark 4	Luke 8
"Behold, a farmer went out to sow. ⁴ As he sowed,	³ "Listen! Behold, the farmer went out to sow, ⁴ and it happened, as he sowed,	⁵ "The farmer went out to sow his seed. As he sowed,
some seeds fell by the roadside, and the birds came and devoured them.	some seed fell by the road, and the birds came and devoured it.	some fell along the road, and it was trampled under foot, and the birds of the sky devoured it.
⁵ Others fell on rocky ground, where they didn't have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of earth.	⁵ Others fell on the rocky ground, where it had little soil, and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of soil.	⁶ Other seed fell on the rock, and as soon as it grew,
⁶ When the sun had risen, they were scorched. Because they had no root, they withered away.	⁶ When the sun had risen, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away.	it withered away, because it had no moisture.
⁷ Others fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and choked them.	⁷ Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit.	⁷ Other fell amid the thorns, and the thorns grew with it, and choked it.
⁸ Others fell on good soil, and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty.	⁸ Others fell into the good ground, and yielded fruit, growing up and increasing. Some brought forth thirty times, some sixty times, and some one hundred times as much."	⁸ Other fell into the good ground, and grew, and brought forth fruit one hundred times."
⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear."	⁹ He said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let him hear."	As he said these things, he called out, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"
¹⁰ The disciples came, and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"	¹⁰ When he was alone, those who were around him with the twelve asked him about the parables.	⁹ Then his disciples asked him, "What does this parable mean?"
¹¹ He answered them, "To you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, but it is not given to them.	¹¹ He said to them, "To you is given the mystery of the Kingdom of God, but to those who are outside,	¹⁰ He said, "To you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God, but to the rest
¹² For whoever has, to him will be given, and he will have abundance, but whoever doesn't have, from him will be taken away even that which he has.		
¹³ Therefore I speak to them in parables,	all things are done in parables,	in parables;
because seeing they don't see, and hearing, they don't hear, neither do they understand.	¹² that	that

Matthew 13	Mark 4	Luke 8
<p>¹⁴ In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says, 'By hearing you will hear, and will in no way understand; Seeing you will see, and will in no way perceive:</p>	<p>'seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand;</p>	<p>'seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand.'</p>
<p>¹⁵ for this people's heart has grown callous, their ears are dull of hearing, they have closed their eyes;</p>		
<p>or else perhaps they might perceive with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and should turn again; and I would heal them.'</p>	<p>lest perhaps they should turn again, and their sins should be forgiven them.' "</p>	
<p>¹⁶ "But blessed are your eyes, for they see; and your ears, for they hear. ¹⁷ For most certainly I tell you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see the things which you see, and didn't see them; and to hear the things which you hear, and didn't hear them.</p>		
	<p>¹³ He said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How will you understand all of the parables?"</p>	
<p>¹⁸ "Hear, then, the parable of the farmer.</p>		<p>¹¹ Now the parable is this:</p>
	<p>¹⁴ The farmer sows the word.</p>	<p>The seed is the word of God.</p>
	<p>¹⁵ The ones by the road are the ones where the word is sown;</p>	<p>¹² Those along the road</p>
<p>¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom, and doesn't understand it,</p>	<p>and when they have heard,</p>	<p>are those who hear,</p>
<p>the evil one comes, and snatches away that which has been sown in his heart.</p>	<p>immediately Satan comes, and takes away the word which has been sown in them.</p>	<p>then the devil comes, and takes away the word from their heart, that they may not believe and be saved.</p>
<p>This is what was sown by the roadside.</p>		
<p>²⁰ What was sown on the rocky places, this is he who hears the word, and immediately with joy receives it;</p>	<p>¹⁶ These in like manner are those who are sown on the rocky places, who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with joy.</p>	<p>¹³ Those on the rock are they who, when they hear, receive the word with joy;</p>

Matthew 13	Mark 4	Luke 8
<p>²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.</p>	<p>¹⁷ They have no root in themselves, but are short-lived. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they stumble.</p>	<p>but these have no root, who believe for a while, then fall away in time of temptation.</p>
<p>²² What was sown among the thorns, this is he who hears the word,</p>	<p>¹⁸ Others are those who are sown among the thorns. These are those who have heard the word,</p>	<p>¹⁴ That which fell among the thorns, these are those who have heard,</p>
<p>but the cares of this age and the deceitfulness of riches</p>	<p>¹⁹ and the cares of this age, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in</p>	<p>and as they go on their way</p>
<p>choke the word,</p>	<p>choke the word,</p>	<p>they are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life,</p>
<p>and he becomes unfruitful.</p>	<p>and it becomes unfruitful.</p>	<p>and bring no fruit to maturity.</p>
<p>²³ What was sown on the good ground, this is</p>	<p>²⁰ Those which were sown on the good ground are</p>	<p>¹⁵ That in the good ground, these are such as in an honest and good heart,</p>
<p>he who hears the word, and understands it,</p>	<p>those who hear the word, and accept it,</p>	<p>having heard the word, hold it tightly,</p>
<p>who most certainly bears fruit, and brings forth, some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty."</p>	<p>and bear fruit, some thirty times, some sixty times, and some one hundred times."</p>	<p>and bring forth fruit with patience.</p>
	<p>²¹ He said to them, "Is the lamp brought to be put under a basket or under a bed? Isn't it put on a stand?"</p>	<p>¹⁶ "No one, when he has lit a lamp, covers it with a container, or puts it under a bed; but puts it on a stand, that those who enter in may see the light.</p>
	<p>²² For there is nothing hidden, except that it should be made known; neither was anything made secret, but that it should come to light.</p>	<p>¹⁷ For nothing is hidden, that will not be revealed; nor anything secret, that will not be known and come to light.</p>
	<p>²³ If any man has ears to hear, let him hear." ²⁴ He said to them, "Take heed what you hear.</p>	<p>¹⁸ Be careful therefore how you hear.</p>
	<p>With whatever measure you measure, it will be measured to you, and more will be given to you who hear.</p>	
	<p>²⁵ For whoever has, to him will more be given, and he who doesn't have, even that which he has will be taken away from him."</p>	<p>For whoever has, to him will be given; and whoever doesn't have, from him will be taken away even that which he thinks he has."</p>

Immediately Afterwards

Matthew 13	Mark 4	Luke 8
[Matthew mentions several parables.]	[Mark mentions a few other parables.]	[In this passage, Luke only mentions this one parable, and then recounts Jesus' comments about who his "real" mother and brothers are - placed at the beginning of this outline.]
³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things in parables to the multitudes;	³³ With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it.	
and without a parable, he didn't speak to them,	³⁴ Without a parable he didn't speak to them;	
³⁵ that it might be fulfilled which was spoken through the prophet, saying,		
"I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things hidden from the foundation of the world."		
	but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.	

End of the day

Matthew 13	Mark 4	Luke 8
⁵³ It happened that when Jesus had finished these parables, he departed from there. [The account of the boat / storm / rebuking the storm / events among the Gadarenes is mentioned elsewhere - see chapter 8.]	³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, [The account of the boat / storm / rebuking the storm / events among the Gadarenes is mentioned next.]	²² Now it happened on one of those days, [The account of the boat / storm / rebuking the storm / events among the Gadarenes is mentioned next.]