



# 1 Youth Ministry

## Grades 7-12

### October 16, 2024

### Parable of the Sower

#### Contact Us

14647 S. 50th Street,  
Suite 16  
Phoenix, Arizona  
85044  
480-584-6116

#### Links

Email

Website

Facebook

Previous Lessons

Text your prayer requests any time



#### Foster Care Teens

##### Personal Care Items

We are always collecting "Personal Care Items" for teens in foster care throughout the year. Items for both male and female teens are being collected in the bin just outside our

See the sidebar for our new TEXT Prayer Request Line! Simply text "I need prayer" to 844-533-3553 anytime, and our team of Prayer Warriors will be praying for you.

Remember  
Midweek Thursday Youth service 7pm!

#### Sunday



#### Parable of the Sower

A couple of Sundays ago, we talked about one of Jesus' more interesting parables, The Parable of the Sower, found in **Matthew 13**. We said it's one of His more interesting parables because not only is the truth hidden in a relatable story, Jesus actually takes the time to reveal the truth and explain the meaning of the parable to His Disciples.

We started by reading the parable in **Matthew 13:1-9**. Afterwards, we asked, what the heck is Jesus talking about? Which is likely what many in His audience were saying to themselves at the time.

We first looked at **verse 9** where Jesus ends the parable with "Whoever has ears, let them hear."

We looked at the Greek verb used here and found

youth room. These items will be sorted into personal bags and given to DCS to be distributed to teens who may not even have their own tooth brush or comb.

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**This Week's Bible Verse**

**Matthew 13:1-9**

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.  
2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.  
3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed."  
4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.  
5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow.  
6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root.  
7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.  
8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.  
9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."

that it also means "to listen" and "to understand". We even found these other terms used in different translations.

We talked about how many times we can hear things being said without really listening such as in [this video](#).

We found that what Jesus is really saying here is Hey, this is really important stuff and I need you to pay careful attention. Don't just hear my words but **listen to understand** what I'm saying. Jesus says different variations of this phrase throughout His teaching. We said that maybe we should listen to understand what He's saying.

We talked about the different characters in the story and we first found **The Farmer** (representing us) sowing the **seed** (Word of God). But, then we found four more different types of people in the story or more specifically, four different conditions of a persons heart.

We said that what makes this parable especially different from others that Jesus teaches is that, after returning to the house, Jesus goes on to explain to His Disciples what the parable means.

We looked at each of the heart conditions explained in **Matthew 13:18-19** and found that the seed falling along the path represents those who "hear" the Word of God but do not listen to understand it so Satan can quickly snatch it away from them.

We then saw, in **Matthew 13:20-21**, that the seed falling in rocky ground represents those who are excited to hear the Word of God and receive it with Joy but do not have understanding in their heart so when they face trouble or persecution, they quickly fall away from God.

In **Matthew 13:22**, the seed falling among the thorns represents those who cheerfully accept the Word of God into their heart but continue to allow themselves to be distracted by the cares of the world and to live in fear or worry. They put worldly limits on God's Word and don't allow God's Word to grow and bear fruit.

Finally, the seed falling on good soil, in **Matthew 13:23**, represents those who fully understand and accept God's Word into their heart allowing God's Word to grow and produce fruit in their lives as well as in the lives of others around them.

We wondered why Jesus would go through the trouble to make sure His Disciples understood the meaning of

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this particular parable by explaining it to them.

We said that the Disciples would soon be going out to share the Gospel with the world and they needed to understand that not everyone will be ready to receive it so they shouldn't get discouraged and give up. God will prepare their hearts to receive the seed.

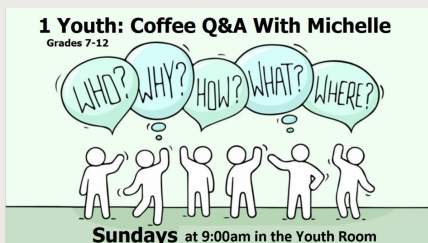
We said that this parable tells us that it is not our job to save others or to change their hearts. It is only our job to **be The Farmer and spread the seed**, God's Word, to others. Then allow God to work on their hearts to allow the seed to grow and produce fruit.

We also noticed something else that is interesting in **Matthew 13**. Jesus' Disciples asked Him why He teaches in parables. Jesus basically tells them that the people's hearts are hardened (like the hard ground) and are not ready to fully receive the truth. They have ears but do not hear and have eyes but do not see.

We said that Jesus wants us all to be **Active Listeners** always seeking the truth in His Word. He wants us to listen to understand His Word.

We said that if you come to Church every Sunday and just sit there hearing the words but not actually **Listening to Understand**, you will be missing out on receiving the truth of God's Word and on having a heart of "good soil" to allow His word to grow and produce fruit in your life and in those around you.

Join us this Sunday (**October 20th**) as we discuss the Parable of the Good Samaritan found in **Luke 10**.



**Pre-Service Coffee Q&A**  
Sundays at 9:00am

Join us in the Youth Room every Sunday, starting at 9:00am, for refreshments in a casual atmosphere for an opportunity for you and your friends to ask questions and discuss answers to your most pressing questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, other Religions, Christianity, or just about Life in general.

Living Word Ahwatukee

Phone: (480) 584-6116

Email: [chris@1youthministry.com](mailto:chris@1youthministry.com)

Website: [www.1youthministry.org](http://www.1youthministry.org)

Connect with us



1 Youth Ministry | 14647 S. 50th Street, Suite 16 | Phoenix, AZ 85044 US

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