

## THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: MATTHEW 13:3

**13** That same day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting beside the sea [of Galilee]. **2** But such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat there [positioning Himself as a teacher], while the whole crowd stood on the shore.

**3** He told them many things in [a]parables, saying, “Listen carefully: a sower went out to sow [seed in his field]; **4** and as he sowed, some *seed* fell beside the road [between the fields], and the birds came and ate it. **5** Other seed fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil; and at once they sprang up because they had no depth of soil. **6** But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, and thorns came up and choked them out. **8** Other seed fell on good soil and yielded grain, some a hundred times as much [as was sown], some sixty [times as much], and some thirty. **9** He who has ears [to hear], let him hear *and* heed My words.”

## MATTHEW 13:10-17

### JESUS' EXPLANATION TO THE DISCIPLES

**10** Then the disciples came to Him and asked, “Why do You speak to the crowds in parables?” **11** Jesus replied to them, “To you it has been granted to know the [b]mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. **12** For whoever has [spiritual wisdom because he is receptive to God’s word], to him *more* will be given, and he will be richly *and* abundantly supplied; but whoever does not have [spiritual wisdom because he has devalued God’s word], even what he has will be taken away from him. **13** This is the reason I speak to the crowds in parables: because while [having the power of] seeing they do not see, and while [having the power of] hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand *and* grasp [spiritual things]. **14** In them the prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled, which says,

‘You will hear *and* keep on hearing, but never understand;  
And you will look *and* keep on looking, but never comprehend;

**15**

For this nation’s heart has grown hard,  
And with their ears they hardly hear,  
And they have [tightly] closed their eyes,  
Otherwise they would see with their eyes,  
And hear with their ears,  
And understand with their heart, and turn [to Me]  
And I would heal them [spiritually].’

**16** But blessed [spiritually aware, and favored by God] are your eyes, because they see; and your ears, because they hear. **17** I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you, many prophets and righteous men [who were honorable and in right standing with

God] longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

## **DISCUSSION: DISCIPLE OR PART OF THE CROWD?**

### **The Sower Explained**

**18** “Listen then to the [meaning of the] parable of the sower: **19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom [regarding salvation]** and does not understand *and* grasp it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road. **20** The one on whom seed was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and at once welcomes it with joy; **21** yet he has no [substantial] root in himself, but is only temporary, and when pressure or persecution comes because of the word, immediately he stumbles *and* falls away [abandoning the One who is the source of salvation]. **22** And the one on whom seed was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the worries *and* distractions of the world and the deceitfulness [the superficial pleasures and delight] of riches choke the word, and it yields no fruit. **23** And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands *and* grasps it; he indeed bears fruit and yields, some a hundred times [as much as was sown], some sixty [times as much], and some thirty.”

## **DISCUSSION: EXAMINE HOW YOU FIT INTO THIS PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE. THE WORD = THE SEED**

### **WE DETERMINE IT'S GROWTH IN US**

**HOW DO WE FERTILIZE IT? i.e, studying God's word, Seeking Him, coming together as believers, Lifestyle**

### **WHAT WE FEED WILL GROW.**

**CULTIVATE YOUR LIFE SO THE WORD CAN GROW IN YOU AND GROW YOU.**

### **Physical Cultivation (Agriculture):**

To prepare land for crops, **often through tilling or plowing.** To grow and nurture plants, such as crops or a garden. To improve the quality or productivity of land through various agricultural techniques.

## Weeds among Wheat

**24** Jesus gave them another parable [to consider], saying, “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. **25** But while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed [c]weeds [resembling wheat] among the wheat, and went away. **26** So when the plants sprouted and formed grain, the weeds appeared also. **27** The servants of the owner came to him and said, ‘Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Then how does it have weeds in it?’ **28** He replied to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The servants asked him, ‘Then do you want us to go and pull them out?’ **29** But he said, ‘No; because as you pull out the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. **30** Let them grow together until the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “First gather the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; but gather the wheat into my barn.”’”