

The Parable of the Sower – March 8, 2017  
 Bellevue Church of Christ – Auditorium Class

Hymn

"None of  
 Self and All  
 of Thee"

\*Four Types of Soil

-What is the object  
 of our faith?

-What are the  
 characteristics  
 of each type of  
 soil (faith)?

Seed = The Word  
 of the Kingdom  
 (v. 19)

1 → Spurning  
 Soil

2 → Shallow  
 Soil

3 → Strangling  
 Soil

4 → Superior  
 Soil

Matthew 13:1-8; 18-23 (Mark 4:8-20; Luke 8:4-15)

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.

<sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach.

<sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow."

<sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Birds = evil one (v. 19)

<sup>5</sup>Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, Sun = Tribulation or persecution (v. 21)

<sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.

<sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Thorns = cares and deceitfulness (v. 22)

<sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear." Grain = bearing fruit (v. 23)

Customary position  
 for a teacher  
 (Matt 5:1)

Sower = God

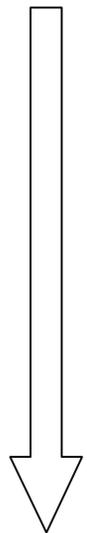
Matt 5:3-5  
 Rom 1-3  
 Rev 1:17-19

How do we respond  
 when opposition  
 hits?  
 Matt 5:11-12  
 Rom 8:12-18  
 II Tim 3:10-13

Ecc 2:1-11  
 Luke 21:34-36  
 I Tim 6:6-10

What is the  
 "Kingdom?"  
 -Matt 5:3-12  
 -Acts 1:3

Faith  
 In  
 Self



Faith  
 In  
 God

<sup>18</sup>"Hear then the parable of the sower:

<sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

<sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy,

<sup>21</sup>yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.

<sup>22</sup>As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.

<sup>23</sup>As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." <- Mt 7:15-20

We have to  
 recognize a need  
 to accept the  
 Word (Acts 2:37)

-The Word of Jesus  
 is offensive to  
 the world.  
 -Opposition is a  
 normal mark of  
 being a disciple  
 of Jesus.

How are riches  
 deceitful? How  
 do we avoid the  
 danger?

What is the mark  
 of one who has  
 truly received  
 the Word?

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**Interpretation of the Parable**

The seed is the word of the kingdom.

The wayside soil is the hardened hearer.

The shallow soil is the unstable hearer.

The thorny ground is the hearer who permits other things to choke out the word.

The good ground is the faithful hearer who bears fruit.

The birds of the air are the evil one.

The sun's heat is tribulation and persecution.

The thorns are the cares, riches, and pleasures of life.

The various multiples of yield are the variable fruitfulness of hearers.

The sudden sprouting of seed on shallow soil stands for the ease with which unstable souls are converted.

The sower stands for God.

**Hymn – “None of Self and All of Thee” - Theodore Monod**

Oh, the bitter pain and sorrow That a time could ever be, When I proudly said to Jesus, “All of self, and none of Thee.” All of self, and none of Thee, All of self, and none of Thee, When I proudly said to Jesus, “All of self, and none of Thee.”

Yet He found me; I beheld Him Bleeding on th’ accursed tree, And my wistful heart said faintly, “Some of self, and some of Thee.” Some of self, and some of Thee, Some of self, and some of Thee, And my wistful heart said faintly, “Some of self, and some of Thee.”

Day by day His tender mercy, Healing, helping, full and free, Brought me lower while I whispered, “Less of self, and more of Thee.” Less of self, and more of Thee, Less of self, and more of Thee, Brought me lower while I whispered, “Less of self, and more of Thee.”

Higher than the highest heaven, Deeper than the deepest sea, Lord, Thy love at last has conquered: “None of self, and all of Thee.” None of self, and all of Thee, None of self, and all of Thee, Lord, Thy love at last has conquered: “None of self, and all of Thee.”

**Coffman’s Comments on Matthew 5:1 – Teachers Sat Down**

Note the custom of sitting down to teach, a procedure that was long followed in the early church. Sitting to teach was an indication of authority. Dummelow noted that in the "early church, the preacher sat, and the congregation, including the emperor, stood." Most of the cathedrals of Europe are still without pews or other seating facilities for the congregation. The reformer, Martin Luther, alluded to this custom when he said, objecting to the Pope's remaining seated to observe the Lord's Supper, "Let him stand up when he takes the communion, like any other stinking sinner."

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**Ecclesiastes 2:1-11 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup>I said in my heart, “Come now, I will test you with pleasure; enjoy yourself.” But behold, this also was vanity. <sup>2</sup>I said of laughter, “It is mad,” and of pleasure, “What use is it?” <sup>3</sup>I searched with my heart how to cheer my body with wine—my heart still guiding me with wisdom—and how to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was good for the children of man to do under heaven during the few days of their life. <sup>4</sup>I made great works. I built houses and planted vineyards for myself. <sup>5</sup>I made myself gardens and parks, and planted in them all kinds of fruit trees. <sup>6</sup>I made myself pools from which to water the forest of growing trees. <sup>7</sup>I bought male and female slaves, and had slaves who were born in my house. I had also great possessions of herds and flocks, more than any who had been before me in Jerusalem. <sup>8</sup>I also gathered for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I got singers, both men and women, and many concubines, the delight of the children of man. <sup>9</sup>So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. <sup>10</sup>And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. <sup>11</sup>Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun.

**Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

<sup>2</sup>And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

**Luke 21:34-36 (ESV)**

<sup>34</sup>“But watch yourselves lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and cares of this life, and that day come upon you suddenly like a trap. <sup>35</sup>For it will come upon all who dwell on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup>But stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

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**Acts 1:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup>To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

**Acts 2:37 (ESV)**

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this they were **cut to the heart**, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

**Romans 8:12-18 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup>So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup>For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup>For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup>For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" <sup>16</sup>The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup>and if children, then heirs--heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. <sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

**I Timothy 6:6-10 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup>Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, <sup>7</sup>for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. <sup>8</sup>But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. <sup>9</sup>But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. <sup>10</sup>For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

**II Timothy 3:10-13 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup>You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, <sup>11</sup>my persecutions and sufferings that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra—which persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. <sup>12</sup>Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, <sup>13</sup>while evil people and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

**Revelation 1:17-19 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup>For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. <sup>18</sup>I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire, so that you may be rich, and white garments so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and salve to anoint your eyes, so that you may see. <sup>19</sup>Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.