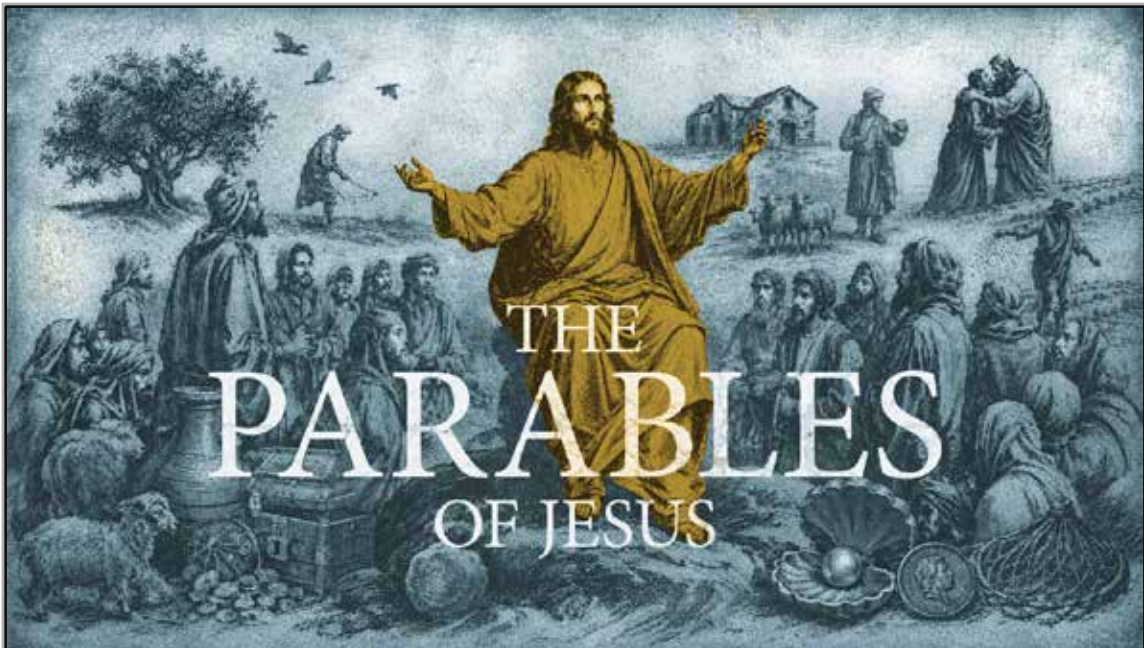




3

Reset Keying - Wait for it - 10 seconds



4

Start Theme Slide



5



6

Can you hear me now?...

7

How open are you to hearing from
God?

8

When Jesus taught, he often used parables.

9

The word: para (alongside) + ballo (to throw or place). A parable places something common alongside something spiritual. It is a story or object lesson about something easy to relate to, with a deeper spiritual meaning.

10

A parable is a simple word picture that teaches a profound spiritual truth. It is easy to relate to – but it is also easy to miss.

11

Why did Jesus speak in in parables?

12

Jesus' use of parables brought clarity
and understanding to some, and
confusion to others.

13

⁹His disciples asked him what this parable
meant.

¹⁰He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of
the kingdom of God has been given to you,
but to others I speak in parables, so that,
" 'though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand.'

Luke 8:9-10 (NIV)

14

Luke 8:9-10 (NIV)

Not everyone has spiritual ears to hear.

15

⁸When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Luke 8:8b (NIV)

16

Luke 8:8 (NIV)

Jesus is reminding us that spiritual truth must be spiritually discerned.

17

¹⁷ Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven.

Matthew 16:17 (NIV)

18

Matthew 16:17 (NIV)

¹⁴The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

19

1 Corinthians 2:14 (NIV)

The Parable of the Soils

20

⁴While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable:

⁵“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.

Luke 8:4-8 (NIV)

⁶Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

Luke 8:4-8 (NIV)

⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Luke 8:4-8 (NIV)

23

Luke 8:1-8 (NIV) Last of 4

This is one of the few parables of Jesus later explains to his disciples.

24

¹¹“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God.

¹²Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

Luke 8:11-15 (NIV)

¹³Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

¹⁴The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear,

Luke 8:11-15 (NIV)

But as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

¹⁵But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:11-15 (NIV)

THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING THE PARABLE,
IS TO NOTICE WHAT IS CONSTANT AND WHAT
VARIES:

- The seed is constant.
- The farmer is constant.
- The soil varies.

It is sometimes called the Parable of the Sower. In reality the focus is on the soils.

29

The soil = the human heart: your will,
your emotions, your thoughts, your
soul

30

Four soils = four responses to Jesus' message

31



32

Four soils = four responses to Jesus' message:

1. The path — the hardened heart

33

⁵“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.

Luke 8:5 (NIV)

34

Luke 8:5 (NIV)

¹²Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.

Luke 8:12 (NIV)

35

Luke 8:12 (NIV)

THREE THINGS THAT HARDEN A HEART:

A. Hurt

36 Group

THREE THINGS THAT HARDEN A HEART:

A. Hurt

B. Refusing to act on what we already know

37

“
The greatest single cause of
impaired hearing of fresh truth
is the refusal to live what we
already know.

”
Lloyd John Ogilvie, *Autobiography of God*

38

THREE THINGS THAT HARDEN A HEART:

A. Hurt

B. Refusing to act on what we already know

C. Focusing on yourself

39

⁷So, as the Holy Spirit says:
“Today, if you hear his voice,
⁸do not harden your hearts
as you did in the rebellion,
during the time of testing in the wilderness,

Hebrews 3:7-8 (NIV)

40

Hebrews 3:7-8 (NIV)

Four soils = four responses to Jesus' message:

2. Rocky ground — the shallow heart

41

⁶Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture.

Luke 8:6 (NIV)

42

Luke 8:6 (NIV)

¹³Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.

Luke 8:13 (NIV)

43

Luke 8:13 (NIV)

The problem: inadequate roots

44

It is great to have an emotional experience but following Christ involves more than feelings.

45

The opposite may also be true. Some of us have an intellectual faith that has not gone deep enough emotionally to heal our hurt and bitterness, fear and anxiety.

46

Jesus says these "believe for a while" and then "fall away." It is faith that does not last.

47

¹⁹They went out from us, but they did not really belong to us. For if they had belonged to us, they would have remained with us; but their going showed that none of them belonged to us.

1 John 2:19 (NIV)

48

1 John 2:19 (NIV)

Four soils = four responses to Jesus' message:

3. Thorns — the crowded heart

49

⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants.

Luke 8:7 (NIV)

50

Luke 8:7 (NIV)

¹⁴The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.

Luke 8:14 (NIV)

51

Luke 8:14 (NIV)

JESUS NAMES THREE THORNS IN VERSE 14:

- A. Worries
- B. Riches
- C. Pleasures

52

Most thorns are not evil things. They
are good things in first place.

53

¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds
of evil. Some people, eager for money, have
wandered from the faith and pierced
themselves with many griefs.

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

54

1 Timothy 6:10 (NIV)

²⁴“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

55

Matthew 6:24 (NIV)

Four soils = four responses to Jesus' message:

4. Good soil — open and obedient heart

56

⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.”

Luke 8:8 (NIV)

57

Luke 8:8 (NIV)

¹⁵But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

Luke 8:15 (NIV)

58

Luke 8:15 (NIV)

JESUS USES FOUR VERBS TO DESCRIBE THE PERSON WITH EARS TO HEAR:

- They *hear* the word
- They *retain* it
- They *persevere*
- They *produce* a crop

59

²²Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

²³Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror

²⁴and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

60

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

²⁵But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

61

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

So what do we do with this?

62

First, it is a personal challenge.

63

Second, it is an encouragement to
everyone of us who sows God's word.
(teaches/ seeks to be a witness for
Christ)

64

Jesus ended this parable by raising his
voice and saying:

He who has ears to hear, let
him hear!

65

Can you hear me now?

66

