

The first parable we will look at today is the Parable of the Sower. This parable is recorded in all the Synoptic Gospels. It speaks about the Kingdom of God (Matt 13:11, Mark 4:11).

We learn that the Kingdom of God comes through the work of the Word. There is life in God's Word. When that Word is sown into our hearts, takes root, sprouts, grows, and bears fruit, the Kingdom of God begins.

In the work of the Word, the condition of our hearts is key. The seed falls on the path, rocky places, among thorns, or on good soil. This shows us that for the Kingdom of God to come upon us, for us to taste and experience it, the life-giving Word of God must be planted in our hearts, take root, grow, and bear fruit.

This parable teaches us to prepare our hearts well to hear the Word. However, the problem is that we cannot do this by our own strength. Our hearts are deeply hardened and corrupted. We have shallow and disobedient hearts. So how can we receive the Word with good hearts?

The Bible tells us this is entirely the work of God—specifically, the work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:8, Rom 8:11, 1 Cor 2:10, Ezek 36:25-27, Jer 31:33). For believers in Christ, maintaining a tender heart that receives the Word and bears fruit depends wholly on the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in us.

Now, let's apply today's passage to our lives.

First, we must always pray and fully expect the work of the Holy Spirit before the Word.

We cannot, by our own effort or decision, cultivate hearts that bear the fruit of the Word. The Holy Spirit must renew and sanctify our hearts. When the Word is enlightened by the Spirit's grace, our hearts and souls are renewed, and we experience joy and happiness.

Second, we must not be discouraged but continue to share the Word and sow the love of the cross.

This parable reminds us that when we share the gospel or teach God's Word to neighbors or loved ones, the outcome depends on the condition of the listener's heart. Success or failure does not depend on our skill in sowing.

Some of the seeds we scatter may fall on hard, shallow, or thorny soil. But the problem is not with the seed itself. If we faithfully scatter the seed, some will fall on well-prepared soil and bring forth a bountiful harvest.

Even in front of someone with a heart like a hardened path, thorny ground, or rocky soil, do not give up. Keep sowing the seeds of the gospel and the cross. Even if it looks like failure, trust that if there is even a small patch of good soil, God's Word can break through and bear a hundredfold harvest—this is the mighty work of God.

Third, we must be thankful for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We must be grateful for the grace of God in us. How were we able to receive the Word, believe in Jesus, and experience grace? How did we come to accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord and experience the blessing of the Kingdom of God within us?

It was because the Holy Spirit worked in my heart while I was reading and listening to the Word, allowing me to receive it with a good heart. Without that miraculous work, I could not have accepted God's Word, understood it, believed it, or obeyed it. All of this is purely by the grace of the Lord.

**Bible
Memorization**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

“Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.” (Ezekiel 36:26-27)

**Bible
Reading**

4/14(Mon)	4/15(Tue)	4/16(Wed)	4/17(Thur)	4/18(Fri)	4/19(Sat)	4/20(Sun)
1 Samuel 24-25	1 Samuel 26-28	1 Samuel 29-31, 2 Samuel 1	2 Samuel 2-3	2 Samuel 4-7	2 Samuel 8-11	2 Samuel 12-13

QT

Quiet Time Passage

4/14(Mon)	4/15(Tue)	4/16(Wed)	4/17(Thur)	4/18(Fri)	4/19(Sat)	4/20(Sun)
Numbers 14:1-10	Numbers 14:11-25	Numbers 14:26-38	Numbers 14:39-45	Numbers 15:1-21	Numbers 15:22-31	Numbers 15:32-41

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Please share any grace you’ve experienced in your life through last week’s message or your personal devotional time this week.

2. Share any new realizations or grace you received from today’s message.

3. Share any decisions you feel led to make in order for God’s Word to bear fruit in your life, and pray together.