

The Parables of Jesus

Lesson two - Handout

- I. How to get the most from our study?
 - a. Familiarize, as best as possible, with the _____ context
 - b. Place its message in the overall _____ of Jesus.
 - c. Place its message in the context of each gospel writers intended _____.
 - d. If recorded in more than one place, _____ the details.
 - e. Focus only on what is _____ and not what is left out.
 - f. Remember parables are _____ - the message is in what is being referenced.
 - g. Ask, "What is the _____ truth?"
 - h. The intended essence is in the _____.
 - i. Remember, it is not possible to understand the _____ of Jesus's teachings in one parable.
- II. Gleaning the message
 - a. Understand the culture and practices of the time.
 - b. Where does this parable fit within Jesus overall teachings?
 - i. This is the first of the 12-13 parables about the _____ (the first of seven found in Matthew 13). We, therefore, must limit our interpretation of this parable to Jesus' _____ concerning the _____ of His kingdom.
 1. Sower, Weeds, Mustards Seed, Yeast Great Treasure Pearl, and the Net
 - c. What is the central theme?
 - i. Four types of soil.
 1. "...fell along the path..."
 - a. In Palestine, the common ground was divided into long narrow _____. There was no fence

or wall around them, but between them were paths for communal use. Constant foot traffic made these paths as _____ as pavement.

i. See Matthew 12:1

2. "...fell on rocky places..."

a. This does not mean a ground _____ of stones. In Palestine, there are many places where there is only a thin _____ of dirt over a shelf of limestone.

3. "...fell among thorns..."

a. If the ground had been plowed _____ the weeds were removed, the field would look good enough. Until the seeds sprouted and _____ the garden.

4. "...fell on good soil..."

a. Soil is _____ enough for the seed to enter with enough _____ to lay down roots and draw the nourishment and moisture it needed, and _____ enough to allow the plant an unhindered chance to survive.

III. What is the central message?

a. There are two possibilities:

i. First Possibility

1. This interpretation says that the parable means that the word of God is _____ good, but that the _____ depends on the hearts and mind into which it falls.

a. "...fell along the path..."

i. Just as the ground is so hard that the seed just lays on the surface, so the heart is so hard that the message of the kingdom cannot _____ it.

1. See Hebrews 3:12-13; Ephesians 4:18

b. "...fell on rocky places..."

i. This is a faith that is so _____ that it has no roots to provide _____ when opposition arises.

There are several possibilities as to the cause:

1. Failure to _____ the cost.

2. Response based on _____.

c. "...fell among thorns..."

i. What are the thorns?

1. See Mark 4:19

ii. This a faith that is preoccupied with too many other things that Christ is _____ out.

d. "...fell on good soil..."

i. This heart does three things with the seed it receives.

1. See Matthew 13:23; Mark 4:20; Luke 8:15

ii. Matthew says they hear and _____, Mark says hears and _____, and Luke says hears and _____.

2. What is the lesson we are to learn about the Kingdom?

- a. We _____ sow the seeds of the kingdom.
- b. Satan will try and prevent it from _____ our hearts.
- c. We must do everything we can to “_____” the soil to receive the word.
- d. We must dwell on it enough to _____ it.
- e. We must believe in its power and _____ it into our lives.
- f. We must _____ it enough to fight for it and keep a hold of it.

3. Why?

- a. That is how the Kingdom _____!

ii. Second Possibility

1. This interpretation says that the _____ of the time, teachings and efforts of Jesus and his followers fell on the first three soils, thus _____ no fruit or harvest. Jesus, therefore, is saying, in spite of the fact it “_____” that much seed is wasted, in the end God will produce a _____ harvest.
2. What is the lesson we are to learn about the Kingdom?
 - a. We cannot be _____ when things do not occur as we hope or expect.
 - b. Since we cannot read the hearts of man, we must take the _____ of sowing wherever we are sent.