

The Sower

Matthew 13:3-23, Mark 4:3-25, Luke 8:5-18

1. Relate the story of the sower in 25 words or less.
2. Why does the sower have to go “forth” or “out” to sow? (Luke 8:5)
3. Why does some seed fall on the wayside (the road or paths)? (Luke 8:5)
4. What two things commonly happen to seed that falls on the wayside? (Luke 8:5)
5. What is meant by the “stony ground” or “rock” upon which some seeds fell? (Luke 8:5, Mark 4:5, Matthew 13:5)
6. What caused the plant on “stony ground” to wither away so quickly? (Luke 8:5)

7. Do you think the sower actually cast seed among thorns or was it likely ground that had not been thoroughly purged and cleansed? (Luke 8:7)

8. Why didn't the seed that fell among thorns yield "no fruit"? (Mark 4:7)

9. What kind of ground or soil is described in the fourth category and what is it that makes it so? (Luke 8:8)

10. Would a crop that yielded a hundredfold be something out of the ordinary? (See the case of Isaac in Gen26:12) (Luke 8:8)

11. How did Jesus alert his hearers about a meaning beneath the surface of the parable? (Luke 8:8)

12. What did the disciples ask Jesus "when he was alone"? What reason did Jesus give in answer to their question? (Mark 4:10-12, Luke 8:9-10)

13. What does the seed represent? (Mark 4:14, Luke 8:12)

14. What does the ground or soil represent? (Mark 4:14, Luke 8:12)

15. What kind of heart is represented by the wayside soil? (Matthew 13:19, Mark 4:5, Luke 8:5)

16. Who is the “bird” that “catcheth away that which was sown” in the heart represented by the wayside soil? (Matthew 13:19, Mark 4:15, Luke 8:12)

17. What kind of heart is represented by the stony ground? (Matthew 13:20, Mark 4:5, Luke 8:13)

18. Why is it that the seed that fell on stony ground immediately sprang up but only “dureth for a while”? (Matthew 13:21, Mark 4:5, Luke 8:13)

19. How could we characterize the heart represented by the thorns among which the seed fell? (Matthew 13:22, Mark 4:7, Luke 8:7)

20. Why did the seed that fell among thorns “bring no fruit to perfection”? (Luke 8:14)

21. What kind of heart is represented by the good ground? (Luke 8:15)

22. What were the results of the seed that fell on good ground? (Matthew 13:23, Mark 4:8, Luke 8:15)