

## **Trust God to Work**

**The Point:** Share Christ in All situations but leave the results to God.

**Passages:** Matthew 13:3-8, Matthew 13:18-23

**The Setting:** Jesus' ministry had drawn large public crowds seeking His miracles and His teachings. Jesus often taught in parables. A parable compares something familiar to something unfamiliar. It helps us understand spiritual truths by using everyday objects and relationships. Parables compel listeners to discover truth, while at the same time concealing the truth from those too lazy or too stubborn to see it.

### **Matthew 13:3-8**

Jesus' parables were stories that used the stuff of earth to tell a heavenly story. He taught them the Parable of the Sower (farmer).

This parable should encourage spiritual "sowers", those who teach, preach, and lead others. The farmer sowed good seed, but not all the seed sprouted and even the plants that grew had varying yields.

#### **Lasting truths from these verses:**

1. Christ's followers must share His message.
2. The response to the message depends upon those who hear it, not on Christ's followers who share it.
3. Different people will respond to the gospel message in different ways.

### **Matthew 13:18-22**

In verse 18, Jesus told them to listen. In verse 19, Jesus explained the first type of soil along the path. He revealed His parable was His word about the kingdom; that is, God's rule in a person's heart. In this soil this person did not understand (obey, follow) it. Therefore, the evil one (the devil, Satan; represented by birds in the parable) came and snatched it away. When people harden their hearts today and refuse to accept the gospel message, Satan will snatch away what they have heard, and they will not be saved.

In verse 20-21, Jesus explained the second type of soil, the one sown on rocky ground. Jesus described the person this soil represented as one who hears the Word and immediately receives it with joy. But this reception does not indicate salvation. He falls away (in vs 21).

In verse 22, Jesus explained the third type of soil, the one sown among the thorns. Jesus described this type of person as one who hears the Word, but we know that merely hearing the gospel is only the starting point for salvation, not the possession of salvation.

**Lasting truths from these verses:**

1. Some people hear the gospel message and refuse to respond by accepting it.
2. Some people respond to the gospel with joy but allow distress or persecution to rob them of salvation.
3. Some people respond to the gospel message but then allow the worries of this age or the deceitfulness of wealth to keep them from bearing the fruit of salvation.

**Matthew 13:23**

This verse is on the truth that those who accept the message and follow Christ, experience abundance. This good ground represents those who are saved, who follow Christ's teachings, and produce fruit in the Kingdom of God.

**Lasting truths from this verse:**

1. Only those who hear and understand (obey) the gospel message experience genuine salvation.
2. When we become Christians, we will produce fruit.
3. Not all Christians produce the same amount of fruit.