



INTRODUCTION: In the 13th chapter of Matthew are seven parables which the Bible calls “the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”. The first deals with the seeming failure of the Gospel. When we look at the world with its wickedness, and we look at the church with its weakness, disappointments and sin, we can be tempted to think that the Gospel is not all it is reported to be. But as we take a look at these seven mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, we are going to see that everything is exactly how God said it would be, and it will engender great faith in your heart and in your life. Let’s start by looking at the Master Teacher:

- 1) The Method of His Teaching: Parables (Matthew 13:1-3, 10)
- 2) The Mystery of His Teaching (Matthew 13:10-11)
- 3) The Motive of His Teaching
 - a) To Reveal Truth (Matthew 13:12)

Psalm 25:9, “The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.”

- b) To Hide Truth (Matthew 13:12-13)

Matthew 7:6, “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”

The Mystery of the Sower will answer the question: Has the Gospel failed?

I. THE MYSTERY OF THE SEED (MATTHEW 13:3-4, 19)

The seed is the “word of the kingdom” or the Word of God.

“Every miracle of God is wonderful until you get used to it.” – Charles Spurgeon

1 Peter 1:23, “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.”

Hebrews 4:12, “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

The word “**quick**” is derived from the Greek word **zao** (ζαω , dzah'-o). It is where we get the word “zoo”. It means life. The word “**powerful**” is derived from the Greek word **energes** (ενεργης , en-er-gace') where we get the word “energy”.

John 6:63, “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

II. THE MYSTERY OF THE SOWER (MATTHEW 13:3, 37)

The sower, Jesus Christ, is seen just scattering seed lavishly, not being careful with the seed.

John 20:21, “Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.”

III. THE MYSTERY OF THE SOIL (MATTHEW 13:4-8, 15-16)

The real mystery of this parable is the soil. There are four kinds of soil represented in this parable and they represent the hearts of men and women who hear the Word of God. There are three basic reasons a preacher can preach the Word and people will not respond or a soul winner can witness and people will not respond to the Gospel.

A. THE SOIL OF NO RECEPTION (MATTHEW 13:19)

What is the wayside? It’s what we would call the sidewalk. It was a walking path. And it has been trampled on by this world so much and has been packed so hard that it is impenetrable.

Hebrews 3:7-8, “⁷ Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, ⁸ Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:”

1 Timothy 4:1-2, “¹ Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;”

John 12:37-39, “³⁷ But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: ³⁸ That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? ³⁹ Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again,”

B. THE SOIL WITH NO ROOT (MATTHEW 13:20-21)

“Your emotions are the shallowest part of your being, and salvation is the deepest work of God. God doesn’t do His deepest work in your shallowest part.” – Adrian Rogers

C. THE SOIL WITH NO ROOM (MATTHEW 13:22)

(The Law of First Mention) The first mention of thorns is in the Adamic curse of sin in the Garden of Eden. It is sin that will keep you from fruitfulness.

D. THE SOIL WITH NO REFUSAL (MATTHEW 13:23)

Jeremiah 4:3, “For thus saith the LORD to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.”

Psalm 51:17, “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.”

Ezekiel 3:7, “But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted.”