

Matthew 13:1-23      Expository Thoughts  
1J.C. Ryle      Module 37      The Parable of the Sower

Read Matthew 13:1-23

-Prayer-

I. Introduction

- A. What is a parable? *para-bellaos*
- B. Why Jesus spoke in parables to a mixed congregation (M. Henry)
- C. Some have ears to hear, some do not.
- D. Jesus, the sower; the perfect preacher, models the Lord's Day; a morning service and an afternoon service.
- E. Pharisees and scribes are authors of faithless insults toward Jesus (Matthew 12:38, 39).

II. The work of the preacher should resemble the work of the sower.

- A. A. The Word of God delivered by the Holy Spirit is our help. John 6:63 "It is the Spirit who gives life, the flesh is no help at all." 1 Corinthians 3:7 "Neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth."
- B. Remember our pastor everyday in our prayers. There is no clock for him to punch out of at the end of the day. He is an expert sower, but only the power of the Holy Spirit causes the miraculous germination of the seed that he sows and roots that grow into a flourishing "disciple tree." Let's look at Hebrews 5:13-17 together. Digest his "solid food" and practice it. Hebrews 5:14

III. "Hearing the Word without benefit: Truth seems to have no more effect on their heart than water on a stone. There is only one evidence of hearing the Word rightly. That evidence is to bear fruit."

A. Four types of Hearers

- 1. Heart soil that bears fruit. Hearers that have been "ordained that ye should go and bring forth fruit." (John 15:16) "Be ye doers of the Word, and not hearers only." (James 1:22).
- 2. Three types of hearers whose heart soil can not receive. Note, "man's heart is like soil, capable of improvement, of bearing good fruit: it is pity it should lie fallow, or be like the field of the slothful." (Proverbs 24:30)
  - a) The Wayside Soil (Matthew 13:4)
  - b) The Shallow Soil (Matthew 13:5)
  - c) The Weedy or Thorny Soil (Matthew 13:7) (Hebrews 4:8)
  - d) Ryle's Wrap up

## Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 Expository Thoughts

<sup>2</sup>J.C. Ryle      Module 38      The Parable of the Wheat and Tares

- IV. “Good and evil will always be found together in the professing church until the end of the world when there will be a separation of the godly and the ungodly.” (Ryle)
- A. John 17:18 “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent you into the world.”
  - B. Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43. Wheat and tares grow together. The children of the kingdom and the children of the evil one mingled together. God’s children provide a witness to the lost.
  - C. Rome’s law against darnel weeds.
  - D. The meaning of the parable in summary:
    - 1. Jesus sows His children
    - 2. The devil sows his children
    - 3. The angels will separate “wheat and tares”
    - 4. Tares will be burned
    - 5. The wheat will inhabit the kingdom
  - E. Ryle’s exhortation  
“When Christ who is our life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.” (Colossians 3:4).