



2011

# **Go And Make Disciples**

**The Cross and Beyond**

## **Lesson 28:**

**Jesus' Parable of the Sower**

**Scripture**

Matthew 13:1-23  
 Mark 4:1-20  
 Luke 8:1-15

**Memory Verse**

Don't just listen to the word. You fool yourselves if you do that. You must do what it says.  
 James 1:22 (NIRV)

**Lesson Goals**

Understand that, like the farmer's seed, God's Word goes out to everyone.

Understand that you are responsible for what you do with God's Word.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

So far, we have seen Jesus teach His disciples many things. What kinds of things have we talked about? (Give students an opportunity to answer.) These are things they would need to remember after Jesus' death, things they would need to continue doing if God's love was going to be shared with all people.

Large crowds were still following Jesus so He got in a boat and taught the people as they stood on the beach. Jesus had taught with lessons and also by example. This time, Jesus taught His disciples by telling stories, stories of earthly things that had a heavenly message. These stories are called *parables*.

Jesus told a story about a farmer. The farmer wanted to plant some seed. Back then, rather than making rows and planting a seed here and a seed there, the farmer would *broadcast* his seed. To broadcast his seed meant that the farmer would grab a handful of seed and throw it all, moving his hand as he did to spread the seed. When the farmer did this, the seed fell on different sorts of ground. Some of the seed fell on the hard path where people walked. Birds flew down and ate this seed. Some seed fell on the rocky places. There wasn't much dirt there, so the seed sprang up quickly but died down almost as quickly because there were no roots. Other seed fell where there were thorns. As the plants grew, the thorns grew, but the thorns crowded out the plants. These plants grew, but they didn't bear fruit. "Still other seed fell on good soil. It grew up and produced a crop 30, 60, or even 100 times more than the farmer planted." (Mark 4:8 NIRV)

Jesus encouraged the people to listen to what He said, but when they were alone, the disciples asked Him why He was teaching this way, in stories (parables).

Jesus said, "You understand because God has given you understanding. Not everyone does. Once someone's heart is ready understanding follows." "That's why I tell stories: to create readiness." (Matthew 13:11b MSG) Then, Jesus told His disciples what the story meant.

The seed is God's message. God's message is shared to all kinds of people. The seed that fell on the hard path are like people who hear God's word and don't understand it. "Then the devil comes. He takes away the message from their hearts. He does it so they won't believe and can't be saved." (Luke 8:12 NIRV) "The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away." (Matthew 13:20-21 NIV)

### Application

Our memory verse says, "Don't just listen to the word. You fool yourselves if you do that. You must do what it says." James 1:22 (NirV) That is all of the difference between the first three soils and the last. Really, it is the difference in a life completely changed by God.

Do you remember our lesson from the Sermon on the Mount? At the end of the sermon (Matthew 7:21-27), Jesus told a story about a wise man and a foolish man. What did that story really mean? The wise man represented someone who listens to God's Word and puts it into practice. The foolish man hears God's word and does nothing with what he has heard.

It makes all the difference in your walk with the Lord. Can you imagine what the world would be like if Jesus' disciples had listened to Him for three years and then kept it to themselves and not put into practice what they had learned?! Others are depending on you to tell them! Do what the Bible says!

The seed that fell on the thorny ground are like people who accept the Word and grow, but as they do, the worries of life prevent them from reaching full growth. "Wealth comes with its false promises. The people also long for other things. All of those are the kinds of things that crowd out the message. They keep it from producing fruit." (Mark 4:19b NirV)

"But the seed on the good soil stands for those with an honest and good heart." (Luke 8:15 NirV) These are people who hear God's message and keep it in their hearts. They put God's Word into practice and are faithful to what it says. They even tell others about Jesus and those people become believers and choose to follow.

So, what does this mean for us? Which soil are you? Neither of the first two types of ground produced anything of substance, not even a healthy plant. For these people, there is no relationship with God. They may sit in church. They may do good things, but there is no life through Jesus Christ. If this is you, don't harden your heart. Accept God's Word and don't let anything take it from you.

The seed among the thorns is different. Maybe you have let God's Word grow in your heart. Is it still growing or have you let worries rob you of the joy of your salvation. Maybe you are so busy going after the things the world thinks is important and you don't make time to study God's Word or to pray. Let's think about a plant, again. If you were looking at a stalk of corn, there would be "plenty of leaf, but . . . no corn in the ear, no substance in your Christianity."\* Is there any fruit in your life as a result of all the messages from God's Word that you have heard? Instead of letting your cares and worries keep you from God, let them drive you to God!

On the other hand, the last type of soil produced a healthy plant that in turn produced fruit. This indicates a relationship with God that is real. This person studies and prays and tells others. They don't make a big deal out of difficulties because they trust God to work good even through bad things.

I'll ask again, which soil are you? Do you know that no matter what the answer, Jesus is waiting to till the ground and plant His seed of love in your heart. Will you let Him?

Spurgeon, Charles Haddon. "Sown Among Thorns." . Blue Letter Bible. 18 Apr 2001. 2011. 24 Jun 2011.  
<[http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm\\_view.cfm?AuthorID=10&contentID=3789&commlInfo=16&topic=Sermons&ar=Mat\\_13\\_3](http://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/comm_view.cfm?AuthorID=10&contentID=3789&commlInfo=16&topic=Sermons&ar=Mat_13_3)>

### Preparing for the Next Lesson

More of Jesus' Parables



# Preschool Lesson

## Teachers:

Bring a plant. If possible, bring four, each in different soils.

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Jesus told a story about a farmer. The farmer wanted to plant some seed. The farmer spread the seed on different sorts of ground. Some of the seed fell on the hard path where people walked. Birds flew down and ate this seed. Some seed fell on the rocky places. There wasn't much dirt there, The seed grew up quickly but died down almost as quickly. There were no roots. Other seed fell where there were thorns. As the plants grew, the thorns grew. The thorns crowded out the plants. These plants grew, but they didn't have fruit on them. "Still other seed fell on good soil. It grew up and produced a crop 30, 60, or even 100 times more than the farmer planted." (Mark 4:8 NIV)

Then, Jesus told His disciples what the story meant.

The seed is God's message, lesson from the Bible. God's message is shared to all kinds of people. The seed that fell on the hard path are like people who hear God's word and don't understand it. "Then the devil comes. He takes away the message from their hearts. He does it so they won't believe and can't be saved." (Luke 8:12 NIV) The seed that fell on rocky ground is like someone who hears what the Bible says and is excited. But since they don't have any roots, they only last a short time. When life gets hard, they quit trying to follow Jesus."

The seed that fell on the thorny ground are like people who accept the Word and grow, but as they do, they start to worry about lots of things and they quit growing. They work hard for money, but don't grow any closer to God. They want a lot of things, but they don't want time with God. They do nothing good for God.

"But the seed on the good soil stands for those with an honest and good heart." (Luke 8:15 NIV) These are people who hear God's message and go over it so they can remember it. They put God's Word into practice. They even tell others about Jesus and those people become believers and choose to follow.

Don't you want to be like this last one? Ask God to help you listen and when you have listened, do what it says!



## Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Play “Memory Verse Volleyball.” String yarn across your Bible Study area. Volley a ball back and forth, saying a word of the memory verse each time the ball is hit. Be sure to include the reference.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring extra snack today. Encourage your students to visit someone who didn’t attend Bible study and share their snack.
- Play a “Listen or Do” game. Create a game board in your Bible Study area with construction paper for the game spaces. Come up with different situations where someone just listened without obeying and where they did what they were supposed to do. Have your students move forward for doing and backwards for listening.
- Sing “Faith, Faith, Faith, Just a Little Bit of Faith,” “Trust and Obey,” “I Will,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel. Bring pictures of the Sea of Galilee and its coastline. Talk about Jesus getting into a boat and pushing out into the water so that the crowd on the beach could hear Him.
- Make a chart to review the lesson. Compare the seed and its results with the meaning of the parable.

Don't **JUST** listen  
to the word.

You fool yourselves  
if you do that.

You must **DO**

what **IT** says.

James 1:22

Trace the letters.

PARABLE  
PARABLE

An earthly story  
with  
a heavenly meaning

# Focus on the Story

○  
**Story Title:**

**Scripture References:**

**Main Characters:**

**Story Summary:**

When?

○  
Where?

What?

How?





# Word Search

K Y O H R W O S U T S N R T S  
S N E A N W O N L T S E N Y Y  
E G D V S H E H T O T T A S T  
V D O N T J U S T L I S T E N  
L D W I A D R E C G T I E M H  
E K H O W W R T H I I L I A N  
S H A T W T D O T O T T E J W  
R D T M O H E A W T E S O I S  
U O I A I E H H E E N U H N E  
O D T T D W O E V O H J E G V  
Y N S T O O R W A U A T V S E  
L S A D E R R O P M E N S U D  
O H Y E R D P T E N L O I R L  
O Y S W A R P S T N D D D E W  
F S E V L E S R U O Y L O O F

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.  
For an added challenge, find each word or phrase twice!

Don't just listen to the word.  
You fool yourselves if you do that.  
You must do what it says.  
James 1:22



# Word Search



Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.  
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# Preschool Word Search

R F I J E S U S E R E D  
T O B E Y L L E C T O R  
H A S E R V A N T E W S  
R I V L I S T E N E D S  
J L A O L I V F N Y L S  
Q J E S U R O M A N E O  
R T O R E I V E N M R E  
S A Y T H F A R M E R S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S S E E D O R B N  
L C S T O R Y D E R S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

JESUS

STORY

FARMER

SEED

LISTEN

OBEY



# Preschool Word Search

R F I J E S U S E R E D  
T O B E Y L L E C T O R  
H A S E R V A N T E W S  
R I V L I S T E N E D S  
J L A O L I V F N Y L S  
Q J E S U R O M A N E O  
R T O R E I V E N M R E  
S A Y T H F A R M E R S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S S E E D O R B N  
L C S T O R Y D E R S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

JESUS

STORY

FARMER

SEED

LISTEN

OBEY