

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: Part 1
ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE RECEPTIVE AND WARNING FOR REJECTORS
Matthew 13:1-17

I. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER: Jesus has just condemned this generation for their rejection of Him and therefore begins to speak in parables (1-9)

1. The occasion for the Parable (1a & ch.12)

2. The Parable of the Sower (1-9)

II. WHY PARABLES? Jesus explains to His disciples that He speaks in parables to conceal kingdom truth from the rejectors and reveal it to the responsive (10-17)

A. Why parables? God in in charge of who will know Kingdom truth (10-12)

B. Why parables? God conceals saving truth from those who have rejected Him, so that they would be judged, thus fulfilling Isaiah's prophecy (13-15)

1. **Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled** in the response of this evil generation who is poised to be judged (13-14)

2. **God conceals truth from the unrepentant** who have dulled their hearts, obstructed their ears, voluntarily blinded themselves concerning His truth (15)

C. The responsive are blessed because they can see and hear truth about Him (16-17)

Next week (Lord willing)

III. JESUS EXPLAINS THE PARABLE TO HIS DISCIPLES: There are four different responses to the Word, all based on the condition of the heart (18-23)