

# “Parable of the Sower—Part 1”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a four-part series about the parable of the sower (which was given in Matthew 13:3-9 and explained in Matthew 13:18-23).

Let’s look at the first lesson in the parable.

## **Birds devoured the seeds**

Matthew 13:4—“And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.”

Matthew 13:19—“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.”

## **Father does the calling**

John 6:44—The Son of God said: “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.”

1 Timothy 2:5-6—“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.”

## **God has a timetable**

1 Corinthians 15:23—“But each one in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming.”

- Revelation 20:6—There is a first resurrection.
- Revelation 20:11-12—There is a later time of judgment—after people have the opportunity to understand truth that had not been available to them.

## **Judgment based on understanding**

- Luke 12:47—If a servant is aware of the master’s will and didn’t do according to that will, he shall be beaten with many stripes.
- Luke 12:48—If a servant not know the master’s will and still did things worthy of stripes, he shall only be beaten with a few stripes.
- John 12:47—If anyone hears the words of the Son of God and does not believe (understand), the Son of God does not judge him.

■ John 12:48—If anyone rejects the words of the Son of God (having understood them), the words of the Son of God will judge him.

### Who snatches?

- John 8:44—The devil was a murderer and a liar from the beginning.
- Genesis 3:1-5—The serpent interjected doubt and outright lied.
- Genesis 4:8—The devil influenced Cain to kill Abel.
- 2 Corinthians 4:3-4—The god of this world has blinded the eyes of those who do not believe.
- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15—Satan transformed himself into an angel of light.
- Ephesians 2:2-3—The prince of the power of the air influences the desires of the flesh and the wrath of laife.
- Revelation 12:7-9—The devil and his angels deceive the whole world.
- Revelation 13:13-14—A beast (who looks like a lamb, but speaks like a dragon) will deceive those who dwell on the earth.

### Temptations of the Son of God

In Matthew 4:1-11, Bible students read about how the devil sought to tempt the Son of God. The devil presented three challenges.

- Matthew 4:3—The tempter said: If you are the Son of God (attempting to manipulate Him), do what I say (attempting to control).
- Matthew 4:6—The tempter said: If you are the Son of God (attempting to manipulate Him), do what I say (attempting to control).
- Matthew 4:8-9—The tempter offered the Son of God all the kingdoms of this world.

### What was his sales pitch?

Consider the devil's sales pitch for the third temptation.

- Was the tempter trying to get the Son of God to grab power? (This was a lust that would have appealed to the devil.)
- Was the tempter trying to get the Son of God to avoid suffering? (This was a lust that would have appealed to the devil.)

n Was the tempter trying to sell the idea of the Son of God sparing the world from suffering? (Although this was not the nature of the devil, he would have been alert enough to see how this could have appealed to the kind nature of the Son of God.)

### Two powerful blessings

In 1 Corinthians 2:11, we read about two powerful blessings.

- People know the things of life by the spirit of man.
- People know the things of God by the Spirit of God.