

“Parable of the Sower—Part 2”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I continued with 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 second lesson in the parable.

Initial excitement, but no root

Matthew 13:5-6—“Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.”

Matthew 13:20-21—“But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.”

Tribulation arises

The Greek word for tribulation (*thlipsis*—Strong’s 2347) is a noun that means trouble, distress, oppression and tribulation.

- Matthew 24:21—There shall be great tribulation—as has never been or ever will be.
- John 16:33—Although the Son of God warned His disciples that they would have tribulation, He reminded them that they could have cheer because He overcame the world.
- Acts 14:21-22—Paul exhorted the disciples to continue in the faith and reminded them that we will have many tribulations to enter the kingdom of God.
- 2 Corinthians 1:4—God comforts us in our tribulations, that we might be able to comfort others who are in any trouble (same word).

Persecution arises

The Greek word for persecution (*diogmos*—Strong’s 1375) is a noun that means persecution.

- Acts 8:1—The disciples scattered from Jerusalem when a great persecution arose.
- Acts 13:50—People stirred up persecution against Paul and Barnabas—and expelled them from their region.
- 2 Corinthians 12:10—Paul wrote that he took pleasure in infirmities, reproaches, needs and persecutions—when taken for Christ’s sake.

Other versions of Greek word

Another noun version (*dioktes*—Strong’s 1376) means persecutor—and it is used only one time.

- 1 Timothy 1:13—Paul described himself before baptism as a persecutor.

The verb version (*dioko*—Strong’s 1377) means to pursue, to persecute and to systematically oppress and harass.

- Matthew 5:10-11—Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and when they falsely say all kinds of evil against you—for Christ’ sake.
- 2 Timothy 3:12—Paul said that all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

Both tribulation and persecution mentioned

Notice two examples where both tribulation and persecution are mentioned.

Roman 8:35—“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?”

2 Thessalonians 1:4—“We ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure.”

Deep roots

Let’s notice some characteristics (mentioned in the two verses above) that help us to have deep roots.

- The love of Christ
- Patience and faith