

Final Kingdom: The Sower Parable

Jonathan Cleveland

March 8, 2026

Reflection & Discussion

Jesus addresses why not everyone will embrace the Kingdom of God

Read and discuss Matthew 13:1-9 & 18-23 (NIV)

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."...

...18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: 19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. 20 The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 21 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. 22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

*What does this story tell us about the Kingdom of God?

*What can you understand about the soils, the seeds, and the Sower from what Jesus shares? What remains mysterious?

*How important is the condition of the soil?

The reason is that something gets in the way and affects the soil

Soil on the path – our hardheartedness

Rocky soil – our unrealistic expectations

Thorny soil – our getting caught up in life

*When have you experienced yourself as any of these types of soil?

*How has the enemy used wounds to close you off? Where might you be hardened?

*When have you had unrealistic expectations of life with God? Where might you be resenting God?

*Do you tend to worry or strive for the good life? Where might you be robbing the experience of the Kingdom?

When the seed falls on good soil nothing gets in the way of receiving the Kingdom

When we are actually open to Jesus' reign in our life.

*When have you experienced yourself as this type of soil?

*What makes you open to this input in your life?

The Kingdom life is really about trying not to get in the way of what He is sowing

God never stops sowing in your life.

*Why is it important that this parable is about the Sower and not the types of soil?

*What is currently being sown in you? How are you slowing down to listen and receive lately?

*What is the Spirit saying to you about allowing the Sower to be received?

[Access Pulpit Rock's Liturgy of the Hours](#)

[Access Pulpit Rock's Holy Spirit Wheel](#)