**Matthew 13:3-23 English Standard Version (ESV)**

 (harmonized with Mark 4:3-25 and Luke 8:5-18)

**3**And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. **4**And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, {it was trampled on**LK**} and the birds came and devoured them. **5**Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, **6**but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root {no moisture**LK**}, they withered away. **7**Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up {with it**LK**} and choked them {so that they did not bear grain**MK**}. **8**Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain {multiplying**MK**}, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. {When he said this, he called out: **LK**} **9**He who has ears, let him hear.”

**10**Then the disciples came and said to him {when he was alone, the Twelve and other around him**MK**}, “Why do you speak to them in parables?”

**11**And he answered them, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. {To those on the outside everything is said in parables. **MK**} **12**For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he {thinks he**LK**} has will be taken away.

**13**This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. {otherwise they might turn and be forgiven. **MK 4:12 – Isaiah 6:9-10**} **14**Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says:

“‘“You will indeed hear but never understand,
    and you will indeed see but never perceive.”
**15**For this people's heart has grown dull,
    and with their ears they can barely hear,
    and their eyes they have closed,
lest they should see with their eyes
    and hear with their ears
and understand with their heart
    and turn, and I would heal them.’ (Isaiah 6:9-10)

**16**But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. **17**For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

**18**“Hear then the parable of the sower: {The famer sows the word. **MK**} **19**When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one {Satan**MK**}{the devil**LK**}comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart {so that they may not believe and be saved**LK**}. This is what was sown along the path. **20**As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, **21**yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution {the time of testing**LK**} arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. **22**As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches {and pleasures**LK**} {and the desires for other things come in and**MK**}choke the word {and they do not mature**LK**}, and it proves unfruitful. **23**As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one {with a noble and good heart**LK**}who hears the word and understands it (and accepts it**MK**}. He {by persevering**LK**}indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”