THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Matthew 13:1–23

Key Verse: 13:8

1. What is the setting? (1,2) Why do you think such large crowds gathered around Jesus?
2. Read Jesus’ parable (3–8). How was this a metaphor for the crowds listening to Jesus? Read verse 9. What was Jesus’ intention in saying this?
3. What did the disciples ask Jesus, and why? (10) How did he answer? (11) Why were the disciples, not the crowds, given this knowledge of the kingdom? (cf. 5:3,10) What did he warn, and what did it mean? (12)
4. Why did Jesus speak to the crowds in parables? (13) In light of Isaiah’s prophecy, what was their problem, and despite it, what did God want to do for them? (14,15) In contrast, how were the disciples blessed? (16,17)
5. Read Jesus’ explanation of his parable (18–23). Who is the “farmer”? What is the “seed”? The “crop”? What do the different soils represent? What does it mean to be like a “path”? Like “rocky ground”? “Among the thorns”? Like “good soil”? Why do you think Jesus wanted his disciples to know this?