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## Parables of Rejection

*By Derek Kiser on December 10, 2021*

**READING:** Matthew 13

This passage contains several different parables. The Parable of the Sower; Weeds; Hidden Treasure; Pearl of Great Value; and the Net are all in this chapter. What are some commonalities in these parables? The gospel is worth a great deal. The message is of great value and worth selling all you have to obtain it, if that were possible. Another similarity is there are many that will reject the gospel. In the Parable of the Sower only one soil produces a good environment for the seed (gospel).

What can we take away from this? It is a warning and encouragement all in one. If I am sharing the gospel there will be good soil that God has prepared in people's hearts to accept the gospel. People will be saved. The heart prepared by the Holy Spirit's drawing will accept the truth of the gospel and that person will be saved.

As for the other soils? That is the warning. There are many people who will never accept the gospel--ones in church with you and ones growing up in youth groups like ours will reject the gospel. They may look good on the outside for a while, they may be interested in the gospel and things of God and church, but they will never have a relationship with Christ. This is sad for sure, but it explains the reality of what we see in churches and in America today. People look like believers and have even been part of a church, but when they go off to college or life hits them hard, they disappear from the things of God. They were never believers, they did not fall away in a sense of losing a salvation because that is not possible. These people never were believers. Even as a pastor I cannot see people's hearts. I do not know for sure who is saved and who is not. I certainly do not know before sharing with someone if they will accept the gospel or not. I Corinthians 3:6-7 states it this way, "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth." We can share the gospel and let God do the work. Only God can work in people's hearts. Some will be saved, some will not, only God knows. Our role is to share the good news of Jesus.

**PRAYER:** God, help me share and trust You are working in people's hearts. God, help me love others enough to share, please give me the words.

**TOMORROW'S READING:** Weekend is for catch-up and review.

**MONDAY'S READING:** Matthew 14

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