

Jesus replied,  
 "Who is my mother, and  
 who are my brothers?"  
 49 And pointing to  
 his disciples, he said,  
 "Here are my mother and my brothers!  
 50 For whoever does the will  
 of my Father in heaven is my  
 brother and sister and mother."

33 And he replied,  
 "Who are my mother and  
 my brothers?"  
 34 And looking at  
 those who sat around him, he said,  
 "Here are my mother and my brothers!  
 35 Whoever does the will  
 of God is my  
 brother and sister and mother."

21 *But he said to them,*  
  
*"My mother and my brothers  
 are those who hear the word  
 of God and do it."*

§ 90 THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MAT 13:1-9	MAR 4:1-9	LUK 8:4-8
<p>1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea.                  2 Such great crowds gathered                    around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach.                  3 And he told them many things in parables, saying:                  "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6 But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.                  7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.                  8 Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.                    9 Let anyone with ears<sup>Q</sup> listen!"</p>	<p>1 Again he began to teach beside the sea.                  Such a very large crowd gathered                    around him that he got into a boat on the sea and sat there, while the whole crowd was beside the sea on the land.                  2 He began to teach them many things in parables, and in his teaching he said to them:                  3 "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and it sprang up quickly, since it had no depth of soil. 6 And when the sun rose, it was scorched; and since it had no root, it withered away.                  7 Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain.                  8 Other seed fell into good soil and brought forth grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."                  9 And he said, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"</p>	<p>▲ 8:1-3 (§ 84, p. 69)                    4 When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him,                    Cf. 5:1-3 (§ 17, p. 24)                    he said                  in a parable:                  5 "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. 6 Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up,                    it withered for lack of moisture.                  7 Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it.                  8 Some fell into good soil, and when it grew,                    it produced a hundredfold."                  As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"</p>

+ <sup>Q</sup> text: S B it (some MSS.) sy<sup>5</sup>; add: *to hear*: C D W Θ λ ϕ ℞ it (some MSS.) vg sy<sup>c</sup> sy<sup>p</sup> sa bo.

• To MAT 12:50 and parallels, cf. JOH 15:14. — "You are my friends if you do what I command you."

§ 91 THE REASON FOR SPEAKING IN PARABLES

MAT 13:10-15	MAR 4:10-12	LUK 8:9-10
<p><sup>10</sup> Then the disciples came and asked him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"</p> <p><sup>11</sup> He answered, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.</p> <p><sup>12</sup> For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.</p> <p><sup>13</sup> The reason I speak to them in parables is that 'seeing they do not perceive, and hearing they do not listen, nor do they understand.'</p> <p><sup>14</sup> With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">'You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive.</p> <p><sup>15</sup> For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are hard of hearing, and they have shut their eyes; so that they might not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn— and I would heal them.' "</p>	<p><sup>10</sup> When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables.</p> <p><sup>11</sup> And he said to them, "To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cf. 4:25 (§ 94, p. 77)</p> <p>but for those outside, everything comes in parables; <sup>12</sup> in order that 'they may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.' "</p>	<p><sup>9</sup> Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> He said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God;</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cf. 8:18b (§ 94, p. 77)</p> <p>but to others I speak in parables, so that 'looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand.' "</p>

◇ MAT 13:13 and parallels — ISA 6:9-10. ◇ MAT 13:14-15 — ISA 6:9-10.

• To MAT 13:14-15 cf. JOH 12:40.

▮ To MAT 13:11 cf. Clement of Alexandria, *Miscellanies* V.10:63, 7. — Not grudgingly did the Lord declare in a certain gospel, "My secret is for me and the offspring of my house." ▮ To MAT 13:12 cf. *Gospel of Thomas, Logion 41*. — Jesus said, "All who have in their hand, to them shall be given; and all who do not have, from them shall be taken away, even the little they have."

§ 92 THE BLESSEDNESS OF THE DISCIPLES

MAT 13:16-17	MAR	Δ LUK 10:23-24 (§ 142, p. 114)
<p><sup>16</sup> "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear.  <sup>17</sup> Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."</p>		<p><sup>23</sup> Then turning to the disciples, Jesus said to them privately,  <i>"Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!"</i>  <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see, but did not see it, and to hear what you hear, but did not hear it."</p>

§ 93 THE INTERPRETATION OF THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MAT 13:18-23	MAR 4:13-20	LUK 8:11-15
<p><sup>18</sup> "Hear then the parable of the sower.  <sup>19</sup> When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it,    the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.    <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy;  <sup>21</sup> yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.<sup>R</sup>  <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth</p>	<p><sup>13</sup> And he said to them, "Do you not understand this parable?    Then how will you understand all the parables?  <sup>14</sup> The sower sows the word.  <sup>15</sup> These are the ones on the path where the word is sown: when they hear, Satan immediately comes and takes away the word that is sown in them.    <sup>16</sup> And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with joy.  <sup>17</sup> But they have no root, and endure only for a while; then, when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately they fall away.<sup>R</sup>  <sup>18</sup> And others are those sown among the thorns: these are the ones who hear the word,  <sup>19</sup> but the cares of the world, and the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things</p>	<p><sup>11</sup> "Now the parable is this:    The seed is the word of God.  <sup>12</sup> The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts,    so that they may not believe and be saved.  <sup>13</sup> The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away.  <sup>14</sup> As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and</p>

\* <sup>R</sup> Or, *stumble (stumbles)*.

choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>23</sup> But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

come in and choke the word, and it yields nothing. <sup>20</sup> And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

their fruit does not mature. <sup>15</sup> But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.”

§ 94 THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES

Δ MAT 13:12 (§ 91, p. 75)	MAR 4:21-25	LUK 8:16-18
<p><sup>12</sup> “For to those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”<sup>4</sup></p>	<p><sup>21</sup> He said to them, “Is a lamp brought in<sup>5</sup> to be put under the bushel basket, or under the bed, and not on the lampstand?<sup>1</sup></p> <p><sup>22</sup> For there is nothing hidden, except to be disclosed; nor is anything secret, except to come to light.<sup>2</sup></p> <p><sup>23</sup> Let anyone with ears to hear listen!” <sup>24</sup> And he said to them, “Pay attention to what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get,<sup>3</sup> and still more will be given you.</p> <p><sup>25</sup> For to those who have, more will be given; and from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”<sup>4</sup></p>	<p><sup>16</sup> “No one after lighting a lamp hides it under a jar, or puts it under a bed, but puts it on a lampstand, so that those who enter may see the light.<sup>1</sup></p> <p><sup>17</sup> For nothing is hidden that will not be disclosed, nor is anything secret that will not become known and come to light.<sup>2</sup></p> <p><sup>18</sup> Then pay attention to how you listen; for to those who have, more will be given; and from those who do not have, even what they seem to have will be taken away.”<sup>4</sup></p> <p style="text-align: right;">▼ 8:19-21 (§ 104, p. 80)</p>

<sup>1</sup> MAT 5:15 (§ 20, p. 26): “No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.”

<sup>2</sup> MAT 10:26 (§ 60, p. 52): “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.”

<sup>3</sup> MAT 7:2 (§ 36, p. 34): “For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get.”

<sup>4</sup> MAT 25:29 (§ 228, p. 178): “For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

LUK 11:33 (§ 153, p. 120): “No one after lighting a lamp puts it in a cellar, but on the lampstand so that those who enter may see the light.”

LUK 12:2 (§ 155, p. 122): “Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known.”

LUK 6:38b (§ 76, p. 65): “for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

LUK 19:26 (§ 195, p. 151): “I tell you, to all those who have, more will be given; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.”

\* <sup>5</sup> text: S A B C Θ λ Ϟ it (some MSS.) vg sy<sup>P</sup>; *lighted*: D W ø it (some MSS.) sa bo.