

Matthew 13:18

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower.

Analysis

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower (ὑμεῖς οὖν ἀκούσατε τὴν παραβολὴν τοῦ σπείραντος)—akouō means more than auditory hearing; it implies 'hear with understanding, obey.' The emphatic humeis ('you yourselves') contrasts the disciples with the crowds who hear but don't comprehend (vv. 10-17). This introduces Jesus's interpretation of the parable He told in verses 3-9.

The parabola (παραβολή) is a 'comparative illustration,' here drawn from Palestinian agriculture. Jesus explains His own parable, establishing that divine revelation requires divine interpretation—we cannot understand kingdom truth apart from the Spirit's illumination. The sower parable is foundational; Mark 4:13 suggests if disciples don't grasp this parable, they won't understand any parable.

Historical Context

First-century Galilean agriculture provides the context. Sowing preceded plowing in Palestinian farming—seed was broadcast first, then plowed under. This explains why seed fell on paths, rocky ground, and thorns. Farmers expected varied results based on soil quality, making this an accessible illustration for Jesus's agrarian audience.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus's command to 'hear' the parable challenge passive Bible reading versus active, obedient listening?
2. Why does Jesus interpret His own parable—what does this teach about the need for divine revelation in understanding Scripture?
3. What makes the sower parable 'foundational' for understanding all of Jesus's kingdom teaching?

Interlinear Text

Ἐμεῖς οὖν ἀκούσατε τὴν παραβολὴν τοῦ σπείροντος
ye therefore Hear the parable of the sower

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