

Matthew 13:37

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

Analysis

He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man (ὁ σπείρων τὸ καλὸν σπέρμα ἔστιν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου, ho speirōn to kalon sperma estin ho huios tou anthrōpou). Jesus identifies Himself as the Sower using His favorite self-designation, 'Son of man' (Daniel 7:13-14)—emphasizing both His humanity and His eschatological authority as the one who will judge the world (v. 41).

The **good seed** (καλὸν σπέρμα, kalon sperma) represents quality and divine origin. Christ's sovereignty in sowing establishes that genuine believers are His work, not accidents or human productions. This counters human efforts to 'make' Christians or manufacture church growth—the Son of man alone creates true children of the kingdom (John 1:12-13).

Historical Context

Jesus's self-interpretation of the parable removes all ambiguity about the central figure. Spoken around AD 30-33, this teaching prepared disciples to understand His messianic mission as including not just physical ministry but spiritual kingdom-building through the gospel seed.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does recognizing Christ as the Sower affect your understanding of evangelism and church growth strategies?
2. What does it mean practically that you are 'good seed' sown by the Son of man rather than a self-generated believer?
3. How should Christ's role as Sower inform your confidence (or lack thereof) in the security of His planting?

Interlinear Text

ο	δὲ	ἀποκριθεὶς	εἶπεν	αὐτοῖς,	὾	σπείρων	τὸ
G3588	and	He answered	said	unto them	G3588	He that soweth	G3588
G1161		G611	G2036	G846		G4687	
καλὸν	σπέρμα	ἐστὶν	ὁ	υἱὸς	τοῦ	ἀνθρώπου	
the good	seed	is	G3588	the Son	G3588	of man	
G2570		G4690	G2076	G5207		G444	

Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:8 (Parallel theme): But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Matthew 13:41 (Parallel theme): The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

Luke 10:16 (Parallel theme): He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and he that despiseth me despiseth him that sent me.

Romans 15:18 (Parallel theme): For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed,

Matthew 10:40 (Parallel theme): He that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Matthew 8:20 (Parallel theme): And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.

Matthew 13:27 (Good): So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

Matthew 13:24 (Good): Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

John 13:20 (Parallel theme): Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

John 20:21 (Parallel theme): Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.