



# PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

## MATTHEW 13:9-17

### LESSON: EARS TO HEAR — July 30, 2023

#### INTRODUCTION/SYNOPSIS:

#### CHAPTER 13:1-8

**13:1** The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. The crowds were so enormous that Jesus had to move out of the house, and go to the sea side to continue His teachings. This is the same day as he taught about His true family in chapter 12.

**13:2** And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. Of course, wherever Jesus went, a great multitude gathered together surrounding Him to intentionally hear a Word from Him. Jesus had to leave the house to a wider area, so He gets onto a ship by the sea side, and sits down, and the whole multitude stood on the shore waiting to hear Him speak.

**13:3** And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;— After the Jewish rejection of the King, many things were spoken to them in parables (*conveying a spiritual truth through a series of earthly comparisons*). This parable is known as "The Parable of the Sower" or "The Parable of the Soils." It is a physical (earthly story) having a spiritual meaning. Look, a sower went out to sow—

- The "**Sower**" is the farmer or in the spiritual, the witness.
- He "**sows**" meaning spreads, scatters, and proclaims the "**seed**" meaning "**the Word of God**" to others.
- The Sower has to sow the seed into the "soil" or ground which is the heart.

We know that the "*preacher*" goes out and sows the Word of God, but do we as "*lay people*" go out to sow the Word of God? Yes! Just remember that a sower is a person/a witness who goes forth to spread the gospel. The Sower must sow. The seed must be watered. And the soil must be fertile to grow.

**13:4** And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:— Some seeds fell by "**the wayside**" (out of the field upon the walking paths and roads). The message spread is about the Kingdom of God; the territory where God rules. They heard the Word of God, but could not receive it; could not understand it because...

- Those seeds were trampled down. The paths and roads were trodden down and the soil was hard.
- And the birds of the air consumed the seeds because the seed just laid on top of the soil for them to devour.

They are in church regularly, and the Word falls upon them, but they are paying no attention to what is going on, having a closed mind and concrete hearts, therefore they pay no attention and give no heed to the Word. Their mind is elsewhere. People whose hearts are not open and soft are easy prey for the devil. The Word always remains on the surface of the heart, thereby exposing it to whatever the devil may wish to grab.

- They rebel •Don't stay awake or alert •Careless in handling the gospel •Are deceived- attendance is important.

**13:5** Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:— Some of the seeds fell "**upon stony places; rocks**", that is, a large layer of rocks lying under the surface. There was not much soil because of the stony places; rocks, but as soon as it

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started to grow, it soon withered away because the water soon evaporated, leaving nothing but dry soil. Remember I said you have to water the soil. The sun scorched the plant. The soil had no depth because of the rocks and the Word is not rooted and grounded.

They heard the message, but the message doesn't take root very deeply, thus when persecution comes, the enthusiasm fades and drops out. They might have a dramatic conversion, and make a decision for Christ, however, the change lasts only for a season, and in the end it fails.

- **He hears the Word** • receives the Word immediately • receives the Word with joy • he endures for a while.

**13:6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.** As said, the sun scorched the plant. The soil had so little root because of the rocks and the Word could not have strength to maintain or be grounded.

**13:7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:**— Some of the seeds fell "among the thorns", that is, the seeds sprouted, but the plants were soon choked to death by thorns.

They heard the message, but Satan crowds the message out with worldly cares and pleasures, and the seed bears no fruit.

**13:8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.** Some of the seeds fell "on good ground", and the seed sprang up and was very fruitful, bearing a hundredfold. A "hundredfold" is a hundred times more of the harvest of what was sown. So can we say: not all believers are equal?. We look at the numbers and the word "some" in the front of it.

They heard the message, and because it is sown on good ground, the seed and soil came together, increasing into a tremendous harvest, bringing more than expected.

## I. THE IMPORTANCE OF LISTENING MATTHEW 13:9-13

**13:9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.** Jesus ends His parable by crying out "*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear*", because there were some that did not have that listening ear to hear; that is, they were closed to Jesus' gospel and could not comprehend within, for their hearts were hardened. And this was a warning for them! Jesus issues a strong call—**Hear!** The ear has no greater purpose than to hear the message of God as it is delivered!

**13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?**— The disciples desired to know the truth about this parable, so they came to Jesus asking why He's speaking to them in parables. Inquiring minds wanted to know. Jesus wasn't speaking as He had spoken in the Sermon on the Mount

**13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.** And so Jesus answers them, and says because it is given unto you to know the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven (which are spiritual things), but to others it is not given, meaning only the disciples were the ones permitted to know about the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven, while others are not. And these disciples didn't even understand. That's why you have to go back and get a clear understanding! But, the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven are not given to unbelievers. Believers believe and draw near to receive the mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven. God does not reward unbelief, He rewards belief and trust!

Some of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God:

- The incarnation and virgin birth of Christ (Matt.1:16; 1:23).
- The ideal and perfect righteousness of Christ secured by His living a sinless life while on earth (Matt.5:17-18).
- The death of Christ on the cross for man (Matt.27:26-56).



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- The intercessory work of Christ going on right now (Heb.3:1).
- The Holy Spirit and His presence in the believer (Jh.14:16-21)
- The material world and the spiritual world, or the physical and spiritual dimension of being (Matt.6:9).
- Man's sinfulness and his dead spirit due to sin (Eph.2:1-3).
- The church, both local and universal, and the mixture of both good and evil in it (Matt.13:1-52).
- The future resurrection (1 Cor.15:51).
- The destruction and remaking of the heaven and earth into a perfect universe (2 Pt.3:10-13)

**13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath.** This is great encouragement to the people who are faithful, diligent, steadfast, hard-working etc because whatever they have, more will be given and overflow. But, it's bad news for the people who are lazy, idle, complacent, close-minded, slothful etc for whatever they have, it shall be taken away from them. Therefore it is either gain or loss: **1.** Believers seek, and therefore receive. **2.** Unbelievers reject, and therefore lose.

**13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.** Jesus tells the disciples that this is why I speak to them in parables: they don't see after seeing, and they don't understand after hearing because of willful blindness, and a lack of comprehension, for what they had no desire to know. Most of the people were more impressed with Jesus' manner of teaching than with His message. So, He reveals more to **open hearts**; and conceals, and hides to those with **closed minds**.

## II. THE DISCREPANCIES IN LISTENING MATTHEW 13:14-17

**13:14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**— In Isaiah 6:9-10 concerning the Prophet Isaiah, God had warned Isaiah when He commissioned him to become His prophet, that his ministry for the most part would fall on deaf ears. Jesus is saying this prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: "By hearing they shall hear, but shall not understand; in their seeing they shall see, but shall not perceive." Why? (the next verse).

**13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.** The people's hearts have become waxed gross (stupid and foolish in mind) for they have become filled with earthly and sensual desires, thereby their heart is harden, their ears are deaf, their eyes are closed (shut; blinded), they deny what they see, refuse understanding, and fight conversion, and healing lest at any time they should see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their heart, and be converted, so Jesus could heal them.

- Men love darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil Jh.3:19.
- Thou (man) lovest evil more than good, and lying rather than to speak righteousness Ps.52:3.
- They believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness 2Th.2:12.

**13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.** Jesus tells His disciples that their eyes are blessed, for they see, and their ears, for they hear. The blessings of God come from seeing and hearing, that is, from conversion and spiritual healing, not from the things that men desire.

**13:17 For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye**

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**see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.** This shows us that New Testament believers are much more privileged than Old Testament believers because of Christ. *"Many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see, but did not see it; and to hear what you hear, but did not heard it"* 1Cor.2:9-10 says *"But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God."*

## SUMMARY:

9Jesus ends His parable by crying out *"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear"*, because there were some that did not have that listening ear to hear; that is, they were closed-minded to Jesus' gospel and could not comprehend within, for their hearts were hardened. This warning was a strong call—**Hear!** He wanted them to hear the message of God as it is delivered! 10The disciples desired to know the truth about this parable, so they came to Jesus asking why He's speaking to them in parables. 11So, Jesus answers them saying because it was given for you (disciples) to know the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven (which are spiritual things), but to others it's not given, 12for whosoever has, to him shall be given more, but whosoever have not, from him shall be taken away even of what he has. 13Therefore, Jesus speaks to them in parables: because the others that see, see not; and those that hear, hear not, neither do they understand (**13:9-13**).

14Isaiah 6:9-10 shows that this prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled: By hearing they shall hear, but shall not understand; in their seeing they shall see, but not perceive. Why? Because 15*"All of them have stubborn minds! They refuse to listen; they cover their eyes. They cannot see or hear or understand. If they could, they would turn to Jesus, and He would heal them"* (CEV). 16Jesus tells His disciples that their eyes are blessed, for they see, and their ears, for they hear. The blessings of God come from seeing and hearing, that is, from conversion and spiritual healing, not from the things that men desire. 17*"For truly Jesus says to them, That many prophets and righteous men longed to see what you see, but did not see it; and to hear what you hear, but did not heard it"* (**13:14-17**).