

## VI. Laws of Divine Establishment and the Royal Family Honor Code: Parable of the Sower

Jesus Christ who created the plant kingdom as well as the human soul, compares the cultivation of each in the first parable:

**Matthew 13:3b** - Behold, the sower went out to sow;

**Matthew 13:4** - and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

**Matthew 13:5** - And others fell upon rocky places, where they did not have much soil; and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.

**Matthew 13:6** - But when the sun had risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

**Matthew 13:7** - And others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out.

**Matthew 13:8** - And others fell on the good soil, and yielded a crop, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.

The emphasis of this parable is on the four different categories of soil into which the sower sows the same seed.

Based on each soil's receptiveness to the seed, four things result:

- a. No germination (Matthew 13:4).
- b. Germination but a small root system causes the plant to wither and not grow (Matthew 13:5, Matthew 13:6).
- c. Germination but influence of other plants causes it to be choked off and not grow (Matthew 13:7).
- d. Germination, photosynthesis, and production of fruit in various proportions (Matthew 13:8).

Our Lord takes the content of the parable and makes a spiritual application in verses 19-23:

**Matthew 13:19** [Explanation of Matthew 13:4] - When anyone hears the Word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.

**Matthew 13:20** [Explanation of Matthew 13:5] - And the one on whom seed was sown on the rocky places, this is the man who hears the Word, and immediately receives it with joy;

**Matthew 13:21** [Explanation of Matthew 13:6] - yet he has no root in himself, but is only temporary, and when affliction or persecution arises because of the Word, immediately he falls away.

**Matthew 13:22** [Explanation of Matthew 13:7] - And the one on whom seed was sown among the thorns, this is the man who hears the Word, and the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.

**Matthew 13:23 [Explanation of Matthew 13:8] - And the one on whom seed was sown on the good soil, this is the man who hears the Word and understands it; who indeed bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, and some thirty.**

In this parable, the sowing of the seed into the soil by the road is symbolic of the truth being communicated into the soul of the unbeliever.

Because they are ignorant of truth, Satan is easily able to distort the message. [*“You’re a daisy if you do.”*]

Positive volition is illustrated though the process of germination which is expressed by the term *“received it with joy.”*

In Matthew 13:6 of the parable, the process of photosynthesis begins its work of providing life-giving heat and energy.

But there is not enough depth of soil to accommodate the plant’s root system, nor is there enough carbon dioxide in the soil. Any water is quickly dried up by the sun.

The three main elements required for plant growth, nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus are in short supply.

Remember, the amount of light, the carbon dioxide supply, and the temperature are the three most important environmental factors that directly affect the rate of photosynthesis.

The Lord’s analysis in Matthew 13:21 associates the sun’s heat of Matthew 13:6 with affliction or persecution.

The truth is constantly challenged by the forces of the Cosmic Academy and those who fail to cultivate the necessary defense system will wilt under the heat. [*“He has not yet begun to defile himself.”*]

The thorns of Matthew 13:7 is compared by Jesus in Matthew 13:22 to the distractions offered by the Devil’s world. [*“The stress was more than he could bear.”*]

But the good soil of verse 8 is receptive to the seed, responds with the addition of water, symbolic in Scripture for the Word of God, and under the energy of the Holy Spirit, produces growth. [*“He’s an oak.”*]

Therefore, the mandate of 2 Peter 3:18 to keep on growing in the sphere of grace, which refers to the Grace Apparatus for Perception, is the spiritual equivalent of photosynthesis.

Part of the growth process is the introduction from time to time of tests, challenges, and sufferings which force the believer to use the doctrine he has learned.

This accelerates spiritual growth just as photosynthesis accelerates the growth of a plant placed in good soil.

Such a plant and such a believer will inevitably produce fruit and do so in abundance ... *“some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

### III. Review

In our analysis of the word, *katergazomai*, we have learned the following things:

The word's etymology indicates that the earliest Greek writers, such as Aeschylus and Sophocles, used it to indicate the cultivation of crops, that is, the energy input required to convert seed and soil into a successful and bountiful harvest.

Later, Sophocles's used the word to describe the energy input required in overcoming opposition—to subdue an enemy.

Finally, the Koine Greek came to use it in the sense of accomplishing a task while in the presence of danger.

This application can be easily seen in another writing of Paul's:

**Ephesians 6:11** - Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

**Ephesians 6:12** - For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**Ephesians 6:13** - Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.

The “*full armor of God*” refers to maximum doctrine in the stream of consciousness. Such knowledge can only be acquired over a period of time through much effort.

The purpose of empowering the soul with biblical problem-solving devices is so that the believer will be enabled to defend his soul against the assaults of the Devil's world. This requires wisdom which is acquired through much effort.

The end result is that when the battles of the Angelic Conflict are fought, the believer will be left standing, having deployed every weapon available to him. The fighting of battles takes much effort.

The energizing factor which accomplishes this end result is described in the English by the words, “*having done everything*.” They represent one word in the Greek: *katergazomai*.

“*Having done everything*” includes the process of inculcation, metabolization, and application under pressure. Note verse 13 again:

**Ephesians 6:13** - Therefore, take up [*analambano*] the full armor of God [mandate to grow in grace to the level of spiritual maturity], in order that [*'ina*: purpose clause] you may be able [*dunamai*: plenipotentary power] to resist [*anthistemi*: deployment of doctrine to life including the problem-solving devices] in the evil day, and having done everything [*katergazomai*: the energy input required for perception and the energy input involved in metabolization, i.e., the cultivation of the soul], to stand firm [the end result: application of truth to the challenges of life producing victory and becoming a winner].

The harvest one reaps as a result of cultivating his soul with doctrine is to become a winner in the Angelic Conflict.