

**SOME LESSONS FROM THE
PARABLE OF THE SOWER: THE
PARABEL OF GROWTH, AND
THE LAW OF THE HARVEST**

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Some lessons from the parable of the sower: the parabel of growth, and the law of the harvest by
J. P. Egbert

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THE
PARABLE OF GROWTH
AND THE
LAW OF THE HARVEST

By J. P. EGBERT.

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PREFACE.

A pastor often feels with pain the weakness of his work, and seeks to find some means to increase its value.

It is with this desire to strengthen a consciously defective ministry that these studies of "the Word of the Kingdom" have been prepared.

First delivered as sermons in Calvary Church, they were then written out from the stenographer's notes, and are published as nearly as possible as they were delivered.

The pleasure of their preparation has been increased by the thought that perhaps

PREFACE.

they may carry true seed to some "good and honest" heart, or help the growth to fuller harvest of seed already sown. Should this be accomplished, it may justify the addition of one more to the many books that ask for our attention. If it find no ministry of helpfulness, it will at least do no harm to those who take the time to read it.

As we are all stewards of the truth, do not forget to ask for the blessing of the God of all truth upon whatever in this little book is according to His Word.

STUDY OF CALVARY CHURCH.

May, 1886.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.
Teaching by Parables.....	1
The Parable of the Sower.....	37
The First Class, "By the Wayside".....	49
The Second Class, "On the Rock".....	65
The Third Class, "Among Thorns".....	83
The Fourth Class, "In Good Ground".....	106
"Take Heed How Ye Hear".....	123
Parable of Growth.....	134
The Law of the Harvest.....	174

"... the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee
wise unto salvation,"

—*II Tim.*, 3:15.

"... Ask not for a sign from Heaven,
In the gospel of thy Saviour, life as well as light, is given,
Ever looking unto Jesus, all his glory thou shalt see,
From thy heart the veil be taken, and the Word be clear to
thee."

—*De Wette.*

"Voice of the Holy Spirit, making known
Man to himself, a witness swift and sure,
Warning, approving, true and wise and pure,
Counsel and guidance that misleadeth none!
By thee the mystery of life is read;
The picture-writing of the world's gray seers,
The myths and parables of the primal years,
Whose letter kills, by thee interpreted
Take healthful meanings fitted to our needs,
And in the soul's vernacular, express
The common law of simple righteousness."

—*J. G. Whittier.*

TEACHING BY PARABLES.

“Why speakest thou to them in parables?”

This question of the disciples suggests a line of thought which may be profitable to us as an introduction to the parables of our Lord, especially to the Parable of the Sower.

The great Teacher did not use parables for their beauty, nor chiefly for their power as illustrations. They are rather hints of something deeper; surface indications of richer ore beneath, for which we must dig watchfully and thoroughly. And we may be sure that parables meant more to Christ than they do to us. As the botanist walking through the forest sees a variety and wealth of which the woodman never dreams; or as the anthropologist, looking at the common customs of men, sees a far-reaching history with a wealth of