

**EXPOSITION OF THE
PARABLES: INTENDED CHIEFLY
FOR THE USE OF TEACHERS IN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**

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Exposition of the Parables: Intended Chiefly for the Use of Teachers in Elementary Schools by
John G. Lonsdale

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OF
THE PARABLES:

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IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

BY

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PREFACE.

THE object of this little book is to give a short and familiar explanation of the Parables of our Blessed Lord. As is stated in the Title, it was mainly written for the use of Teachers in Elementary Schools, particularly those in Sunday Schools, with whom the want of a simple exposition of the Parables, such as they may render in their own language to their Scholars, has been often felt. It is hoped that to other persons also the book may not be without use.

The plan which has been adopted is to state shortly the occasion on which each Parable was delivered, as in many of them this will be found to bear materially on the lesson intended to be taught; to give an explanation of every difficult word or expression in the Parable itself; and to add some practical remarks on the moral to be drawn from it.

The various explanations offered of several of the Parables have not been discussed; that interpretation which seemed on the whole to be preferred has been alone given. The practical remarks have been confined as much as possible to *a single, definite* point, as the writer is of opinion that the Divine Author of the Parables intended that one simple truth should be enforced by each—not that two or three distinct lessons should be drawn from it. It is hoped that the moral selected in each case will be found such as writers of repute have sanctioned.

It remains only to add that any attempt to derive instruction from the terms or expressions used in the Parables themselves has been carefully avoided. These, the writer conceives, were introduced merely to give a completeness and unity to the narrative, and afford no warrant for the many ingenious, though for the most part fanciful and far-fetched, meanings attached to them.

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EXPOSITION OF THE PARABLES.

THE SOWER AND THE SEED.

MATT. xiii. 3—9. MARK iv. 3—8. LUKE viii. 5—8.

THIS parable is thus given by the three Evangelists:—

MATT.	MARK.	LUKE.
Behold, a sower went forth to sow; and when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprang up, because they had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up, and choked them; but other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.	Behold, there went out a sower to sow; and it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: but when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.	A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.