

JESUS' PARABLE OF THE SOWER

WEEK A-15

MATTHEW 13:1-23



On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was **scorched**, and it **withered** for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the **mysteries** of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but

to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*. Isaiah's **prophecy** is fulfilled in them, which says: *You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them.*

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the **sower**. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some **tribulation** or **persecution** comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

1. UNDERSTAND IT!

Sower	A farm worker who scatters seeds over land to grow plants.
Scorched	Burned with heat or flame.
Wither	To lose ability to survive and grow.
Mysteries	Something that is hard to be understood and cannot be explained
Prophecy	Knowledge of the future.
Tribulation	Challenging experience/test.
Persecution	Actions to cause suffering.

2. EXPLORE IT!

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus compares the word of God to seeds. The seeds need to fall on good soil in order to grow and bear fruit. The word of God, in the same way, needs to be heard by the people who take the time to receive it and let it grow inside of them. Jesus told us that the word of God is just waiting to become alive inside of us. All we have to do is listen. It is normal that we don't always understand everything we hear, as long as we take the time really listen with an open heart. Just as your family needs to take time for meals together, every Christian needs to feed daily on the word of God.

3. CONNECT IT!

We often hear about the sowers, harvesting and seeds in Jesus' parable. The sower knows that it takes time for the sown seed to grow and become mature fruit. In this parable, Jesus used these images to speak of the word of God and of the kingdom of God. The word of God is sown into our heart. It begins to grow and bear fruit. This is how we are called to help Christ build the kingdom of God.

Jesus explains in this parable different types of people who respond to God's words differently:

- 1) First seeds fall on the Path and get Snatched by the birds. For some, they hear words of God but it is snatched away and they don't take it into their hearts.
- 2) Second seeds fall on the Rock and become Dried up. Some people stop being excited about Jesus and the words of God dry up in their heart. They are no longer alive in their spiritual life.
- 3) Third seeds fall among the Thorns and get Choked out. Some people get so worried and distracted by the other things that God's Word cannot take root in their heart. It is choked out and lost.
- 4) Last seeds fall into the Good Soil they Grow and bear fruits. The good heart is excited about God's Word, lives out His teaching and spreads the good news to others.

6. PRAY IT!

Dear Jesus, we need to always be enthusiastic or excited when we hear God's Word. Help us understand Your Good News and be willing to share it with other people around us. Amen.

4. LIVE IT! [ENTHUSIASM]

Enthusiasm is the excited feeling or eager enjoyment to do something. We can check up on our heart to see how we feel toward Jesus, God's Word, the Church, family, friends, etc. If we do not feel like to be bored or interested, we can ask Jesus to help us focus back on Him and to get excited about Him again.

This week think about what you are supposed to do at home normally (chores, prayer time, etc) and see if you can accomplish them with joy voluntarily without being reminded

5. REMEMBER IT!

“But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it.” (Matthew 13:23)

My child has completed the corresponding virtue for this week _____

Parent signature