

# JESUS' PARABLE OF THE SOWER



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

## 1. EXPLORE IT!

The parable itself is meant to give us encouragement. Then later explanation is meant to be a warning. When the going is rough, we need to be confident that with God's help we can overcome the difficulties and be part of the harvest of the Kingdom of Heaven.

The Gospel raises uncomfortable questions. Jesus urges us to examine our approach to God. We should draw encouragement from God's power and

On that day, 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."

desire to overcome all obstacles to a successful harvest. Jesus goes on to explain the parable in detail, but only to the disciples who are happy because they see and believe. Accompanying Jesus makes them happier than the prophets who had hoped to see what they saw but did not see it. Jesus identifies the difficulties that hinder the acceptance and growth of the seed. The problem is not that the seed is refused. They all receive the seed but some either neglect it or allow it to be stolen from them.

## 2. CONNECT IT!

God persists in continuing to sow His word in our hearts. It would be good for us today to ask ourselves what specific obstacles He finds in our lives. What is it, apart from God, that is given priority in our lives? What receives most attention in our day-to-day lives? What occupies our hearts? What gives meaning to our lives? We will not be converted to hear and obey God's word, unless we identify the source of our indifference, our laziness and resistance.

## 3. REFLECT IT!

God measures by a different set of standards. In the parable of the sower, the seeds represents God's word. We learn that God throws Himself upon the earth and shares Himself with each of us and does not expect anything in return. In the end, it is up to us how we respond to God's call.

Will we accept the Word of God and allow it to soften the edges and break up the clods in our own lives?

We have been given the personal freedom to choose to accept God's love. By choosing yes, we agree to cultivate the soil of our lives, so we may bear abundant fruit.

## 3. LIVE IT! [ ENTHUSIAM ]

Enthusiasm is the desire to learn.

Love always bear fruit. The consoling point of the story - you never know when you will get fruit. Love given is never lost. Like dropping something into the river, you never know where it will end up. Love given to children in the family also bears fruit in the next generation. We never know. Part of life is trial and effort. Jesus was the same. He threw out love like the sower throws out the seed. He knows it may fall badly. But He gives it anyway. He picked up the cross with love. He gave love on Calvary to everyone. God is like that. It may take years to flower. God doesn't stint the seed, nor does he stint love.

## 5. REMEMBER IT!

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

## 6. PRAY IT!

Dear God. Have mercy on us, God, in Your goodness. Help Your word to bear fruit in our lives today.  
Amen.