

# JESUS' PARABLE OF THE SOWER

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 heart 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."

## I. EXPLORE IT!

As the people gathered to hear Jesus, He began teaching by telling a story likening the word of God to sowing seed. At times, a seed may fall to the side of the path, only to be eaten up by birds. Other times, the seed may fall on rocky ground, unable to plant strong roots and be dried up against the hot sun. And then there was the seed that grew amongst the thorns, only to be suffocated by the opposing plant. But finally, Jesus added, was the seed that fell on rich soil, which grew and became fruitful. Jesus reveals to His disciples how stories like these help the people understand the kingdom of heaven.

## 2. CONNECT IT!

All seeds contain a tiny plant inside waiting for just the right conditions to germinate and grow! What conditions are these? Seeds require sufficient sunlight once they sprout to produce energy through photosynthesis. Seeds require the right temperature - whether spring or fall to activate. Seeds require good soil, where it will draw nutrients and ground itself with roots. Seeds require protection from bugs, birds, animals, and even other plants in order to survive. And seeds finally require sufficient water, enough to keep the soil moist but not to drown the plant itself. Only under the right conditions will a seed begin to sprout, thrive, and grow to become a tree, a plant, a flower.

The same goes for our faith! For a seed, the sun is a source of light to give energy, but as Catholics, we look towards Jesus the Son, who is our source of life. Like a plant, we need strong roots planted firmly in our faith so we do not get uprooted when the floods come or the winds blow. Just as water and soil provide nutrition to enrich a budding plant, the Eucharist nourishes our bodies and souls. Sometimes the obstacles and struggles in our lives might make it take longer to produce fruit, but just like any seed, the potential is always there!

## 4. LIVE IT! [ENTHUSIASM]

**ENTHUSIASM**— the virtue of doing something wholeheartedly and eagerly with a positive attitude

Jesus said we cannot live on bread alone but by the word of God. As a young Catholic, do you desire the Word of God with enthusiasm? For this week, open up your heart and then open up the bible to next week's Gospel reading and take a few minutes to read and contemplate on God's message to you.

## 6. PRAY IT!

Lord Jesus, help me to do more than just looking for You, but rather, to truly see You present in my life. Help me to do more than just hear You, but rather, to truly listen to Your word. Help me to understand You more with my whole heart so that You may be with me always. Amen.

## 3. REFLECT IT!

Like the seeds sown that fell on the path picked away by the birds, or the seeds that fell into the rocky ground and unable to develop strong roots, our faith can disappear easily if not firmly rooted in the Word of God. What are some of the challenges that may prevent the Word of God from planting deep roots into your life? How can you enrich your life to allow God's seed to be sown firmly and become fruitful?

## 5. REMEMBER IT!

"But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it."

(Matthew 13:23)