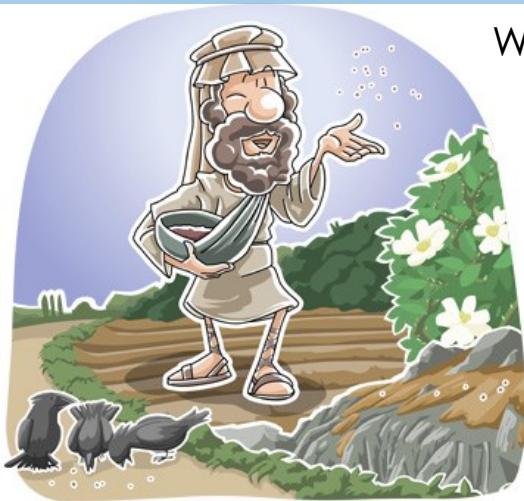


JESUS' PARABLE OF THE SOWER

WEEK A-O15 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!

Parables	A simple story to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson as told by Jesus in the Gospel.
Mysteries	A belief based on divine revelation, especially one regarded as beyond understanding.
Prophecy	A prediction through God's guidance of what will happen in the future.
Sow	To plant a seed by scattering it on or in the earth.
Tribulation	A cause of great trouble or suffering.

2. EXPLORE IT!

Jesus told the parable of the sower, or farmer of seeds. In that story, some of the seeds fell onto places that made it difficult for the seeds to grow because the sun burned it, or birds ate it. Some of the seeds even fell into thorny areas so that they could not grow because the thorns took up all the food in the ground. Jesus' disciples asked Him why He spoke to people in parables instead of telling them directly, and Jesus replied that people may not understand His teachings if spoken directly and therefore, through parables the people could understand. In the sower parable, Jesus suggests that peoples' faith are seeds and for them to grow in faith, it is important that they are "planted" in good soil for them to bear fruit, or in other words, to help others also grow in faith.

3. CONNECT IT!

Our faith requires nourishment and attention to grow. If we do not give it any attention, it could easily fade away. One way we grow our faith is by practicing it, to include participating in Mass. Yet just attending Mass is not enough. Sometimes when we go to Mass, we become distracted and do not listen to the Bible readings or the Father's homily. Yet the word of God and His teachings are the nourishment our faith needs. Like the sower parable, it is important that we do not allow things to take us away from God, that we give Him our full attention. This means not sleeping during Mass and not joking around with friends. By giving God our full attention, we can grow our faith and also help others also grow closer to Christ.

6. PRAY IT!

Dear God, we do not want to go another day without You in our lives. Help us to seek You in all things, to be enthusiastic in discovering You through the Word of God. Amen.

4. LIVE IT! [ENTHUSIASM]

Enthusiasm is an intense and eager enjoyment, interest, or approval.

This week be enthusiastic in discovering Jesus because He is giving us great knowledge. Read the Gospel every night this week and pay attention in Mass.

5. REMEMBER IT!

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

My child has completed the corresponding virtue for this week _____
Parent signature _____