



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

MARCH 15 - 21

SUNDAY: SCRIPTURE

MARK 4:1-20

¹ Again Jesus began to teach by the lake. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it out on the lake, while all the people were along the shore at the water's edge. ² He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times."

⁹ Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

¹⁰ When he was alone, the Twelve and the others around him asked him about the parables. ¹¹ He told them, "The secret of the kingdom of God has been given to you. But to those on the outside everything is said in parables ¹² so that,

"they may be ever seeing but never perceiving,
and ever hearing but never understanding;
otherwise they might turn and be forgiven!"

¹³ Then Jesus said to them, "Don't you understand this parable? How then will you understand any parable? ¹⁴ The farmer sows the word. ¹⁵ Some people are like seed along the path, where the word is sown. As soon as they hear it, Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown in them. ¹⁶ Others, like seed sown on rocky places, hear the word and at once receive it with joy.



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¹⁷ But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ¹⁸ Still others, like seed sown among thorns, hear the word; ¹⁹ but the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²⁰ Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

MONDAY: OBSERVATION

As farmers, we understand that good soil doesn't just happen—it's cultivated through hard work, patience, and care. In Mark 4:1–20, Jesus' Parable of the Sower speaks directly to that truth. The seed—the word of God—is always good. But the harvest depends on the condition of the soil, just as our spiritual growth depends on the condition of our hearts.

We've all seen what happens when seed falls on hard ground—it gets devoured before it can take root. Rocky soil may show a quick sprout, but without depth, it withers under the sun. Thorny patches might look promising at first, but weeds soon take over. Only when the soil is soft, deep, and cleared of weeds can the seed grow strong and bear a rich crop. Isn't that just like our lives? When we let pride, worry, or distraction take over, God's word can't grow, but when we humble ourselves, clear out the clutter, and let Him work the ground of our hearts, His word produces a harvest far beyond what we could imagine.

This parable reminds us that faith isn't a one-time planting—it's a lifelong process of tending, watering, and weeding. Each season gives us a new chance to prepare the soil of our hearts for God's truth. If we stay faithful and keep our hearts ready, the harvest—both in our lives and in the lives we touch—will be abundant. The question is: are we preparing our fields for God's seed to thrive?



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TUESDAY: APPLICATION

Spiritual growth requires intentional effort—just like raising a healthy crop. Good soil doesn't happen by chance; it's the result of consistent care. In the same way, a heart that bears fruit for God must be cultivated daily.

We can start by identifying and removing the “weeds” in our lives—habits, distractions, or attitudes that choke out time with God. Just as a farmer checks the field for rocks, weeds, or pests, we should regularly examine what's keeping God's word from taking root in us. Setting aside time each day to pray, read Scripture, or simply be still before God is like a gentle rain on a field or garden—it keeps our hearts soft and receptive.

When storms come or growth feels slow, we can remember that deep roots take time to form. Farmers trust the process because they know the harvest will come if the field is cared for. Likewise, we must keep trusting God and stay consistent, even when we don't see quick results.

The practical takeaway is simple: spiritual fruitfulness is not accidental—it's cultivated. By daily tending our hearts through prayer, obedience, and perseverance, we prepare the soil for God's truth to grow strong in us and to bear fruit that blesses others. The harvest of faith, peace, and love will follow those who keep their hearts open and ready for God's word.

WEDNESDAY: PRAYER

Lord, thank you for planting your word in our hearts. Help us become good soil that is open, soft, and ready to receive what you want to grow in us. Show us the weeds—our distractions, worries, and habits—that choke out your truth, and give us the courage to remove them. Teach us to be consistent in prayer, faithful in obedience, and patient as you form deep roots within us. Strengthen us when growth feels slow, and remind us that you are always working beneath the surface. May our lives bear fruit that reflects your love and brings blessing to others. Make our hearts a field where your word thrives. Amen.



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THURSDAY: OBSERVATION

When Jesus told a parable, the topic was easily understood by the people who were listening. In the parable of the Sower, we need to realize that 80 – 90% of the Galileans were farmers. As with our community, most of the people listening would have been acquainted with farming practices. In Galilee, all the farming was done by hand. When sowing seed, the farmer would take a handful of seeds and spread them over the ground ahead of him as he walked. In Jesus' story, the seed lands on four different types of soil. How could a good farmer attempt to plant seeds on a path, in the rocks, or in the weeds? Why would he waste seeds on places he knew would not grow?

To understand this, you need to realize that the farming plots in Galilee were small squares surrounded by a walking path. So, when the seed lands on the walking path, it lands on ground that has been trampled flat with no soil on top, and the birds could easily find the seeds and eat them. Between the hard path and the good soil was an area of rocks and weeds. The rocks had fallen off the path, or maybe were pushed out of the field. The weeds surrounding the field grew there because their seeds had fallen off the people's feet and garments as they walked on the path and taken root there. When the Sower was dispersing the seed on his field, he would want the entire field to be seeded, even to the very edges of the field. In doing so, some of the seeds may land on the path, in the rocks, or in the weeds. When Jesus mentions these types of soils in His parable, the people could visualize exactly why this was happening.

FRIDAY: APPLICATION

In Jesus' story, the Sower is God, and He is sowing the seeds of His Word. The types of soil are the hearts of the people who are listening. God desires His seeds to germinate in soft soil, to grow, and to produce abundant crops. He desires that our hearts are



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well-tilled and soft to hear His Word and respond in obedience. If we are hardened by sin in an area of our life, like the soil on the path, we will not hear or respond to the Word, and Satan will quickly snatch away any contact we might have with the Word. If our hearts are like the soil in the rocks, we may be excited to hear the Word and attend church every Sunday, but when trouble comes, we run away from God, not to Him for guidance. If our hearts are like the soil among the weeds, we may desire to read and obey God's Word, but life is so busy. How can we make time to read the Word, memorize it, or focus on God? Good intentions do not produce results. God desires us to hear the Word, and act on it. God desires our hearts to be soft, ready to hear His Word.

Are Bible reading, Bible study, and time for reflection on Bible passages a part of your daily routine? Is your heart soft to receive God's Word? Is studying God's Word a priority in your life? It's been said that to become more loving, more generous, more gracious, more like Jesus, you must read and study His word.

SATURDAY: PRAYER

Heavenly Father, this parable is so relevant to us in an agricultural community. First, may we be the good soil. May our hearts be open, humble, and receptive to your word. May we truly listen to your word and hear what you are saying to us. May we accept your word, not just intellectually, but may it pierce our heart and allow it to have influence over all our lives and daily walk with you. And then may it produce a crop of obedience, love, joy, good works, and passion for you. Second, may we be the sower (farmer). Give us a desire to spread your word and share the good news with those new to town and far from Jesus. Give us the opportunity and boldness to share you with others and allow the Holy Spirit to work in the lives of those that don't know you, so they too may have a saving relationship with you that allows you to be Savior and Lord. Help us, Lord Jesus! It is in your name we pray. Amen.

