

# A Farmer Went Out to Sow

## Happy Wednesday

“That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear... Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 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. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 NIV

<https://bible.com/bible/111/mat.13.1-23.NIV> [bible.com]

Last week, we looked at how the words we choose to speak steer our lives. We are instructed to scatter seed, but not just any seed: the Truth of God. We are instructed to do this faithfully, in any and every conversation. We are instructed to let no idle words come out of our mouths. “Avoid godless chatter, because those who indulge in it will become more and more ungodly.” 2 Timothy 2:16 NIV

We’re also instructed on what to do with the seeds we’re receiving. When someone speaks the Truth of God to you, there are 4 possible outcomes.

1- Sometimes you hear the Truth of God, but it makes zero sense. And because it’s so “confusing”, you don’t even try to unpack it and so you “forget” it. In the Old Testament, the Israelites (God’s chosen human race through whom Jesus would come) were cautioned dozens of

times about the danger of forgetting what God had done, and the warnings then are the same as they are today: do not forget what God has done or said - otherwise, if this is you, the seed of God has fallen on a path and has nowhere to grow. “When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path.”

2- Sometimes you hear something from the Lord and YES! It is exactly what you were hoping to hear and needing to hear! But someone questions you and then you question yourself, or you don't allow yourself to *stay* changed by God once you *become* changed by God, and the crop is ruined. This is the seed that the crow eats from the rocky soil. “The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. 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.”

3- Sometimes you may not agree with the Truth of God, but does that make it less True? You may not think it's “your truth”, but it is still God's Truth. If this is you, the cares of the world are choking out your seed, like the seed among thorns. Ask God to rid you of the thorns, which are the sins that so easily entangle. Anyone who has been caught in a briar patch wearing shorts knows how easily entangled you can become in thorns, and our sins are no different, trying to ensnare you from the freedom of Salvation. “The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.”

4- And lastly, your heart can be soft to always hear and accept the Word of God. The Bible promises us that the Word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword and can penetrate, even dividing soul and spirit, joint and marrow by judging the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. If your heart is soft to hear the Word of God and apply the Word of God, then you'll live the Word of God. As you live out the Word of God, you'll encourage others to do the same as well!

As we grow as children of God, any of these 4 things can happen every time we encounter God. We must pray to be soft-hearted, alert to the enemy's tricks, sober-minded, and humbly accept the Word of God: our standard for Truth. We must also pray to be people who scatter the right kind of seeds – the Seed of the Word of God.

Prayer:

Father, help us not hinder You, but be part of making Your Word successful in the calling You have given each of us. To some you have called to produce much fruit in their homes, others in their careers, others in their day-to-day life, but the fact remains: all children of God are called to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. Help us draw near to You and be changed by Your Word.

Worship:

“You Hold It All Together” by Churchome ft. Chandler Moore and Naomi Raine  
<https://youtu.be/RAna65Kg86Q> [youtu.be]

“Count ‘Em” by Brandon Lake <https://youtu.be/a6Ti41hJ5fQ> [youtu.be]

“Hallelujah Even Here” by Lydia Laird <https://youtu.be/NaTxEF6kdAk> [youtu.be]

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