

Growing Spiritually

Reading - Matthew 13.1 - 23



Introduction

Again we continue the series theme of Growing Spiritually but this time turning to this famous Parable told by Jesus. Matthew's Gospel places it alongside other Parables also illustrating the message of the Kingdom.

Jesus is a master storyteller and takes the everyday sight of a farmer sowing seed to teach about spiritual growth. He himself goes on to give the clearest exposition of the story in verses 18 - 23. The Sower is anyone who shares the message sincerely, the Seed is the Word of God, and it's the different soils that hold the focus.

As the Sower randomly casts out the seed it falls in different places. Some onto the path, where it takes no root and the evil one snatches it away. Some on stony ground where it's initially received with enthusiasm, but because of little depth, when problems come it withers away. Some in thorny places where the worries and anxieties of life choke any real faith and some on good soil bringing a harvest of fruit and life for the Kingdom. Jesus invites us to think about which soil represents our lives. Perhaps at different times and seasons we might be more than just one.

Discussion Starters

- Think about the seed that falls on the path. How would you describe what happens here? Do you see it in your life or someone else's in practice?
- Consider the seed (the message of the Kingdom) that falls on stony ground. How would you describe the person that this soil represents? Do you think the problem of a lack of roots is a common one?
- Look at the seed that falls amongst the weeds and thorns. How would you describe what they might be for us? How do you get rid of the weeds?
- How do you understand the Harvest of the good soil? What does it look like in terms of spiritual growth for us?

Prayer time

Please do pray for needs shared and known. Pray also for the work of the Church in sowing the seed and people's receptiveness to it.