

## Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:6

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."

## Read: Matthew 13:18-23

Jesus said,<sup>18</sup> "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: <sup>19</sup>When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path. <sup>20</sup>The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. <sup>21</sup>But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away. <sup>22</sup>The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

## Study Questions:

1. What should this parable tell you about sowing the seeds of the gospel? How important is a fertile heart?

It reminds me that I cannot make someone believe but I should still sow the seed of the gospel. I should not be surprised when someone rejects or doesn't follow Jesus. It is biblical. But at the same time I should be faithful to sow the seed.

2. Looking at the various types of ground, in your own words, how would you describe the person who is like the seed that fell along the path (verse 19)?

Many people live believing the Satan, father of all lies. I believe the two biggest lies of all time are that we don't need God and that God isn't real anyway. When a person believes that lie, they are like the seed that fell along the path, just waiting to be eaten.

3. How would you describe the person of whom the seed fell among the rocks, who receives with joy right away but has no root (verse 20)? In our culture, what causes them to fall away from what they heard (verse 21)?

Often, people receive the gospel as an emotional response to meet their immediate need but never do anything with it. They may find joy at that very moment and expect that somehow life will be forever bliss. But when life throws them the next curve, they get disillusioned, thinking God has abandoned them and having never grown in the word of truth where grace and peace are found, they cannot find peace with God and they fail to receive the mercy and grace to help them in their time of need. See Hebrews 4:16.

4. How do you see the truth from verse 22 happening around you that the worries of life and wealth cause the person to be choked out of bearing fruit?

Many people struggle at this point; making Jesus Christ Lord of your life and living in obedience to him alone is a requirement of a fruit bearing life. When we let the worries of life and the pursuits of wealth become our focus, we are unable to let Jesus be the Lord of our life.

5. What is the result of sowing seed in good soil according to Matthew 13:23?

It produces fruitfulness. This is all to the glory of God!

6. How do you know when you are sowing in good soil? When someone has a fertile heart for the gospel?

The word of God tells me that no one seeks God on his own (Romans 3:11). The father draws him to himself (John 6:44). When someone has a desire to hear the word, study the word, praise the Lord, pray to God, and live for Him we know that there is fertile soil. And we will know disciples by their fruit (John 15:8)

It is interesting that a seed only grows after it dies. We must die to ourselves to live for Christ! In John 12:24-26, Jesus said, <sup>24</sup> “I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup> The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.”

### **Read 1 Corinthians 3:5-8**

<sup>5</sup>What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. <sup>6</sup>I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. <sup>7</sup>So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup>The man who plants and the man who waters have one purpose, and each will be rewarded according to his own labor.

7. What important truth are we reminded of in this passage?

We cannot save anyone. We can only sow seed and water it. God is required to make the seed of the gospel grow and produce fruit.

### **Daily Reading:**

- Day 1: Romans 1
- Day 2: Romans 2
- Day 3: Romans 3
- Day 4: Romans 4
- Day 5: Romans 5