

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLES





Matthew 13:1-9 NIV

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.”



Matthew 13:18-23

“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.”



JAN VAN T HOFF 21



Farmer – God

Seed – The word of God
fulfilled

Soil – sowed liberally to
different hearts
receiving the seed



1 Corinthians 3:6-9

I planted, Apollos watered,
but God gave the growth
so neither he who plants
nor he who waters is
anything, but only God who
gives the growth.

He who plants and he who
waters are one.

And each will receive his
wages according to his
labour.

for we are God's fellow
workers.



Farmer – God and us
co-labouring

Seed – The word of God,
Jesus, the word become
flesh

Soil – different hearts
receiving the seed



Soil One

As he was scattering the seed, some fell on along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and ***doesn't understand it***, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart.



Soil Two

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.

The seed on the 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.

Often religion is painted as oppressive, restrictive, and anti-human.
Like a grumpy neighbour who hates the sound of children laughing
and playing in the streets.

I often wonder if subconsciously many Christians feel the same way,
that Jesus' teaching runs counter to and not in harmony with the
satisfaction of our longings.

How often do you hear people talking of the goodness of Jesus'
teachings

and the liberation obeying them brings?

More often, they're painted as repressive and domineering.

Things we do to please God, not to be more alive.

Jesus' teachings are the language of love,
themselves the way in which we drink deeper of God's loving
presence.

Strahan Coleman:

Thirsting, quenching our soul's deepest desire



Soil Three

Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

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.



Soil Four

Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop – a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

The seed falling on good soil refers to someone who **hears the word and understand** it.

This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.



**What is my
story?**



What is my story?

1 Peter 3:15

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clean conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behaviour in Christ may be ashamed of their slander.



What is my story?

1 Timothy 4:2

Preach the word;
be prepared in season
and out of season;
correct, rebuke and
encourage
with great patience and
careful instruction.



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