

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

This stained glass window shows "The Sower and the Seed".

Do you remember that parable?

Why would it be a good picture for display in a church?

Prayer

Dear Lord,

We know that we are sinful people. Help us to be good listeners today when we read the story or parable You told about the sower and the seed. Please do not let anything distract us while we learn about You. Thank You for sending Your Son to earth so we can go to heaven. Amen.

The Story - Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

On the same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the sea. {2} And great multitudes were gathered together to Him, so that He got into a boat and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.

{3} Then He spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. {4} "And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. {5} "Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth.

{6} "But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because

they had no root they withered away.

{7} "And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

{8} "But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. {9} "He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"

(18) "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: {19} "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.



{20} "But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; {21} "yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

{22} "Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who

hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

{23} "But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

What the Story Tells Us - Retell the story by drawing a picture to show each of the types of ground and the plant life that lives there.

1. by the wayside	2. on the stony ground
3. among the thorns	4. on the good ground

Outer Aim - Jesus told a parable that describes the enemies working against the Word of God.

What God's Word Tells Us - Match the earthly pictures with the heavenly meaning of this parable as explained by Jesus.

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| 1. _____ The seed refers to ... | A. ... the one who receives the word but faith is choked out by the world. |
| 2. _____ The birds represent ... | B. ... the ones who hear and understand the word and bear fruit. |
| 3. _____ The seed at the wayside is ... | C. ... the wicked one. |
| 4. _____ The seed on the stony ground is ... | D. ... the word of the kingdom of heaven. |
| 5. _____ The seed among the thorns is ... | E. ... the ones that hear and don't understand it. |
| 6. _____ The seed on the good ground is ... | F. ... the ones who first receive the word with joy but when troubles arise they immediately stumble. |

Inner Aim - Jesus has taken away my sins and reveals Himself through the Holy Scriptures.

Passages - Look up these passages in the Bible, fill in the blanks and discuss the questions.

Romans 10:17 So then _____ comes by _____, and _____
by the _____.

How do we receive faith according to this passage?

1 Samuel 3:9 ... 'Speak, _____, for _____
_____."

Who gives us our instructions for life according to this passage?

John 8:31-32 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you _____ in My _____, you are My _____ indeed. {32} "And you shall _____ the _____, and the _____ shall make you _____."

What command does God give us in this passage?

What will the "truth" which Jesus speaks of do for us?

Hymn - TLH #49

Almighty God, Thy Word is cast
Like seed into the ground;
Now let the dew of heav'n descend
And righteous fruits abound.

Let not the world's deceitful cares
The rising plant destroy,
But let it yield a hundredfold
The fruits of peace and joy.

Let not the foe of Christ and man
This holy seed remove,
But give it root in ev'ry heart
To bring forth fruits of love.

Oft as the precious seed is sown,
Thy quickening grace bestow
That all whose souls the truth receive
Its saving power may know.

Prayer

Dear Father in Heaven,

We ask You for a strong faith which grows in a heart filled with Your love. Thank You for sending Jesus to forgive our sins and for sending the Holy Spirit into our hearts through Your Word. Please help us spread the Word of forgiveness and salvation to others. In Jesus' name we ask. Amen.