

Luke 8:4-15
Parable of the Sower

⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ “A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.”

When he said this, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, “The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

“ ‘though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand.’ [a]

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

a. Isaiah 6:9

New International Version (NIV)

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1. In what areas of your life have you had to persevere?
2. Why would a farmer allow precious seed to land on the path, or rocks, or among thorns? Is he an irresponsible farmer scattering seeds at random?
3. What happened to each group of seeds?
4. How did Jesus conclude his parable? (8:8)
5. How much of the parable did the people understand? How much did the disciples understand? (8:9-10)
6. Why didn't the people or the disciples understand this parable?
7. Did Jesus design his parables to have trick meanings, hidden meanings, or more than one basic interpretation? Why do some listeners discover the truth in a parable and others do not?
8. Why do you suppose that this was among the first parables that Jesus told?
9. What kind of people today might be represented by the seed that fell on the path? (8:12)
10. Why couldn't those who received the word with joy stay faithful? (8:13)
11. What choked those who were represented by the seed that fell among the thorns? What other things (or people) might the thorns represent?
12. Why is perseverance necessary for all who receive the Word?
13. What kind of soil do you most resemble right now? What worries or temptations have hindered your growth as a Christian recently?
14. What will most help you be responsive to God in your study of the Bible?