

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Matthew 13:1-9 (NIRV)

The Story of the Farmer

13 That same day Jesus left the house and sat by the Sea of Galilee. ²Large crowds gathered around him. So he got into a boat. He sat down in it. All the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things by using stories.

He said, "A farmer went out to plant his seed. ⁴He scattered the seed on the ground. Some fell on a path. Birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some seed fell on rocky places, where there wasn't much soil. The plants came up quickly, because the soil wasn't deep. ⁶When the sun came up, it burned the plants. They dried up because they had no roots. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It produced a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than what was planted. ⁹Those who have ears should listen."



Matthew 13:18-23 (NIRV)

¹⁸"Listen! Here is the meaning of the story of the farmer. ¹⁹People hear the message about the kingdom but do not understand it. Then the evil one comes. He steals what was planted in their hearts. Those people are like the seed planted on a path. ²⁰Others received the seed that fell on rocky places. They are those who hear the message and at once receive it with joy. ²¹But they have no roots. So they last only a short time. They quickly fall away from the faith when trouble or suffering comes because of the message. ²²Others received the seed that fell among the thorns. They are those who hear the message. But then the worries of this life and the false promises of wealth crowd it out. They keep it from producing fruit. ²³But still others received the seed that fell on good soil. They are those who hear

the message and understand it. They produce a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than the farmer planted."

What happened in the story?

1. Jesus tells PARABLE (compare story)
2. Farmer throw seeds 4 places
3. Seed falls on path, rocky, thorny, good dirt
4. Jesus explains Farmer and happens seed
5. Good seed grows 100, 60, 30 times

Law- Many things work against a person hearing and believing God's word. A person's heart is against God because of sin. Sin makes a person reject God for many different reasons. The flesh, world, and the devil are against us.

Gospel- God throws His life-giving word everywhere. God makes his word grow in all different people and places. God changes people by His word. People do many great things for other people because of God's Word. God's Word saves many people.

Application- Happens God's Word (seed) comes we should hear and believe. We should understand many people are trapped by the flesh, world, and devil. We should know God is fighting for us in His Word and Sacraments. God wants everyone to be saved. We should throw (inform) God's life-giving Word to everyone (all).

Intro

Jesus often told PARABLES (compare stories) to keep hidden His salvation from smart, proud, and stubborn people. Many things work against a person hearing and believing God's word. A person's heart is against God because of sin. Sin makes a person reject

God for many different reasons. The flesh, world, and the devil are against us. People don't believe in Jesus because people think Jesus is foolish. People say, "How can a man dying on a cross save anyone?" People say, "Silly!" But we know this is God's hidden way...the way of the cross. The world cannot know God by its own knowledge or effort (try). **John 17:25** (NIrV) "Father, you are holy. The world does not know you [God], but I [Jesus] know you [God]. Those [people] you [God] have given me [Jesus] know you [God] have sent me [Jesus]. God says He will save people.

Ephesians 2:5 (NIrV) "So he gave us new life because of what Christ has done. He gave us life even when we were dead in sin. God's grace has saved you."

In the Bible reading the farmer is really God. The same as a farmer takes care of the farm so God takes care of the world. God is much greater than any earthly farmer. The farmer plows the ground, puts seed into the ground, kills the weeds, waters, and takes the harvest. God puts people on earth, sends rain, and helps people to increase and live. God, the greatest farmer, makes the earth, the sun, and the stars. God brings people home to heaven (harvest). The farmer owns and takes of the land. God invented and takes care of the universe by His Word. The seed the farmer (God) is throwing is really His Word, the Bible. God

sends his Word everywhere. God puts preachers and churches everywhere. God sends His Word everywhere by people, TV, radio, internet computer, and many other ways. God also sends preachers to the deaf so deaf people can see and believe in Jesus. God throws His life-giving word everywhere. God makes his word grow in all different people and places. God changes people by His word. People do many great things for other people because of God's Word. God's Word saves many people.

God's Word never changes. God's Word makes us know about our sins. God's Word tells us Jesus takes away our sin. Often people and things want to get in the way (block) of God. The flesh, the world, and the devil try to block God's work. The farmer's 1st seed falls on the path. The path is like pavement or concrete. The seed cannot penetrate that ground. The seed is exposed (show). The birds come and eat the seed...gone. This happens God sends His Word to the Islamic countries. Peoples' hearts are hard against the Bible. God has sent His Word. People have rejected the Word. **Romans 1:8** (NIrV) "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you. People all over the world are talking about your faith." Peoples' hearts are covered by the blacktop or concrete of Islamic religion. The preaching of the Word cannot get into their hearts. The government and religious

leaders forbid and take away the Word. People die in their sins. **Romans 1:18-20** (NIrV) "God shows his anger from heaven. It is against all the godless and evil things people do. They are so evil that they say no to the truth. The truth about God is plain to them. God has made it plain. Ever since the world was created it has been possible to see the qualities of God that are not seen. I'm talking about his eternal power and about the fact that he is God. Those things can be seen in what he has made. So people have no excuse for what they do."

God throws the 2nd seed and the seed goes to rocky ground. The seed penetrates into the ground and begins to grow but soon the Sun dries and kills the plant because of no root (deep knowledge). God's Word finds people living in hard and poor conditions on earth. People are so concerned and busy with getting food, clothes, and shelter. Life is so hard people no longer are looking upward toward God but only look down at the earth for their answer...people once again die in their sins. "But they have no roots. So they last only a short time. They quickly fall away from the faith when trouble or suffering comes because of the message."

Next or 3rd God's Word falls on the thorny ground and penetrates. The seed begins to grow but this time hard times or

suffering doesn't destroy faith but pleasures of the world destroy. The thorns represent (show) pleasure the world offers believers. Pleasure like money, sex, and power turn and lead people away from God and people die in their sins. "They are those who hear the message. But then the worries of this life and the false promises of wealth crowd it out. They keep it from producing fruit."

Successfully, or 4th God's seed (word) falls on good soil. This means people hearing and believing God's Word are changed by His life-giving and saving Word. "They are those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than the farmer planted." The crop is means "good works" or loving works of faith. These are people spreading God's Word to other people, so other people can believe and go to heaven. The same as crops produce more crops. So, Christians people help make other Christian people by God's Word and Sacraments. How many Christian people are in the world today because of Jesus' 12 disciples? Many! Many!

Happens God's Word (seed) comes we should hear and believe. We should understand many people are trapped by the flesh, world, and devil. We should know God is fighting for us in His Word and Sacraments. God wants everyone to be saved. We

should throw (inform) God's life-giving Word to everyone (all). 1
Timothy 2:4 (NIrV) "He [God] wants everyone to be saved. He
wants them to come to know the truth." Amen.