

Church Year Story 12

*Catechism and Memory Verse
from the Congregation at Prayer for the Week*

BIBLE STORY: THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER AND THE SEED

Luke 8:4-15

Central Thoughts

- Jesus is the Sower and the Seed is the Word of God.
- The Word of God alone creates the miracle of faith in Jesus. (The Good Ground)
- The Gospel is preached everywhere as a sign of God's grace and salvation for all people.
- The devil is an enemy of faith in Christ. He does not want people to hear the Word of God and believe it. (The Wayside)
- Trouble and suffering threaten our faith in Christ when our faith is not deeply rooted in God's Word. (The Rocks)
- Earthly cares, riches, and pleasures seek to take the place of Christ and to choke out faith in Him. (The Thorns)

Discussion Questions

Who is the Sower?

Jesus

What is the Seed?

The Word of God

What does the Word of God do?

The Word of God creates faith in Jesus.

Where did the Sower sow his seed?

He sowed His seed everywhere.

What does this teach us about the "mystery of the kingdom of God"?

The Lord preaches His Word everywhere for the salvation of all. This is a sign of His grace—His undeserved loving-kindness for ALL people everywhere.

Who do the birds represent?

The devil who wants to take away the Word of God or prevent us from hearing and receiving God's Word.

What do the rocks represent?

Testing—trouble and suffering that threaten our faith in Christ when our faith is not deeply rooted in God's Word.

What do the thorns represent?

The cares, riches, and pleasures of life that seek to take the place of Christ and to choke out faith in Him.

What is good ground?

Those who have been brought to faith in Christ and who have been preserved in the faith by the power of God's Word alone.

What can ground or soil do to make itself "good" soil?

Nothing. It is dead and lifeless. Soil must be tilled, prepared, and weeded. God's Word alone both prepares our hearts to receive the Word and creates faith in the heart to believe in the Word.

What is the mystery of the Kingdom of God revealed to the disciples by this parable?

Faith in Jesus is a miracle of God's Word and only God's Word can keep and preserve us in the true faith against all the enemies of faith, including our own sinful nature.

Which one of the Ten Commandments should we think of when we hear this parable?

The Third Commandment: Remember the Sabbath Day by keeping it holy.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God so that we do not despise preaching and His Word, but hold it sacred and gladly hear and learn it.

Meditation on the Bible Story

God's Word alone creates the miracle of faith and God's Word alone preserves us in the true faith. Everything depends upon God's Word. Jesus told His disciples that he spoke in parables because only Christians can understand the mysteries of the kingdom of God. The mysteries of the kingdom of God have to do with how God works that is so very different from how the world works. In the world, no sower would waste his expensive seed on a hard packed wayside, or scatter it in rocky soil or in soil that was full of thorns. He would sow his seed only in good soil that was prepared to receive it. God in His grace and mercy is very different from the ways of the world. The Lord preaches His Word everywhere. This is a sign that the Gospel and the gift of salvation in Christ is for ALL people EVERYWHERE and that it is not proclaimed only to those who believe it. God's Word is to be preached everywhere because the Gospel is for all. Nevertheless, faith in Christ is threatened by the devil who wants to prevent us from hearing God's Word. It is threatened by life's troubles when we do not continue to receive the Word. And it is threatened by all the earthly cares, riches, and pleasures of life when we value these things more than we value God's Word. The mystery of God's grace in His Word is that it is ONLY the Word of God that can create "good soil" in our hearts. It is the Word by which Satan is driven out, by which faith is strengthened to withstand the troubles of life with joy, and by which we are preserved in the true faith against every temptation to make a god out of the things of this world. As a faithful sower prepares the soil to receive the seed, so the Lord, by the very Word that He sows in our hearts, makes of us "good ground." By the grace of God, His Word creates "a noble and good heart" that "keeps the Word" and "bears fruit" with perseverance.

Prayer on the Bible Story

Lord Jesus, sow the Seed of Your Word into our hearts every day. By Your Holy Word, drive the devil far from us, strengthen our faith during times of trouble, and keep us from making gods out of the cares, riches, and pleasures of this life. By Your Word, give to us a truly noble and good heart that is cleansed from all sin, that rejoices in Your salvation, and that trusts only in Your Word. In Your holy name we pray. Amen.



Parable of the Sower and the Seed
Luke 8:4-15