

Planting for the Harvest

February 17, 2019

Scripture:

“¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear.”” (Matthew 13:1–9, ESV)

From the Introduction:

While this is important for the person receiving the seed of the Word, for us it is also important to have a better idea of the field (soil) in which we are planting. Would it be incorrect for us to consider that the farmer who planted the seed in the bad soil did not take into consideration whether the field in which he was planted was properly prepared?

- 1) Planting by the _____ – v. 4
 - a) Lack of _____ – v. 19
 - b) Like the sower planting along the wayside, so also are we when we plant the seed of the Word to those who lack _____ in the things of God.

- 2) Planting on _____ – v. 5
 - a) Lack of _____ – vv. 20-21
 - b) Like the sower planting on the stony places, so also are we when we plant the seed of the Word to those who lack _____ regarding the things of God.

- 3) Planting among _____ – v. 7
 - a) Lack of _____ – v. 22
 - b) Like the sower planting among thorns, so also are we when we plant the seed of the Word to those who show _____ regarding the things of God.

- 4) Planting in _____ – v. 8
 - a) Properly _____ – v. 23
 - b) Like the sower planting in good soil, so also are we when we plant the seed of the Word to those _____ to receive it.

Remember:

“¹⁴The sower sows the word.” (Mark 4:14, ESV)

Reflect:

“Any one can count the seeds in an apple. But only God can count the number of apples in a seed.” – Robert H. Schuller

Seek:

Jesus notes that the good soil will yield a harvest that will be “in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.” What joy does knowing that God is faithful in our service to His word tell you about the importance of sharing Christ with others?

Share:

Share with the group your most recent experience in planting the Word of Christ. Did the seed fall on good soil, or did it land among the rock, the path, or the thorns? Why do you think so?

Serve:

In relating Matthew's parable, Pastor Mark notes, "Too often the believer who seeks to plant in God's harvest field spends their time seeking the good soil. This, however, is not our call to make." How does this keep us from serving others for Christ?

Prayer:

This week, as you pray, ask the Lord to send you into the field of His choosing. In doing so, ask the Holy Spirit to take your eyes off the rocks, path, thorns, and soil, and to prepare you for planting, leaving the rest to Him.