

# 'The parable of the sower' - Matthew 13:1-23

Jesus told stories using things people do every day to explain his ideas. The stories are called parables. The people he was speaking to were farmers. They knew how to grow things! They would understand this story.



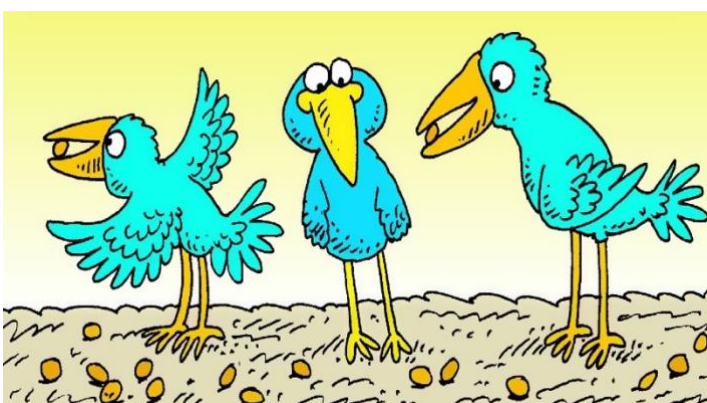
Jesus was sitting by a lake and loads and loads of people came to hear him tell stories. There were so many people that Jesus had to get in a boat and teach the people from the sea. He told them a story about a farmer who planted some seeds. A sower is someone who plants or sows seeds.



In those days the farmer threw the seeds onto the soil, just like in the picture. This meant the seed fell into lots of different places. Some fell on the rocks, some on the soil....

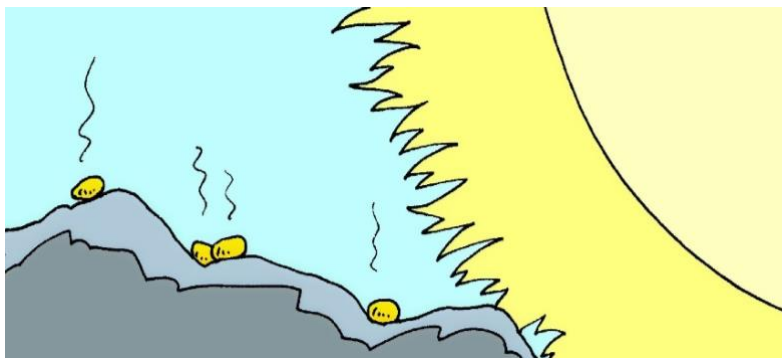


Some of the seeds fell on the hard road where people stood on them.



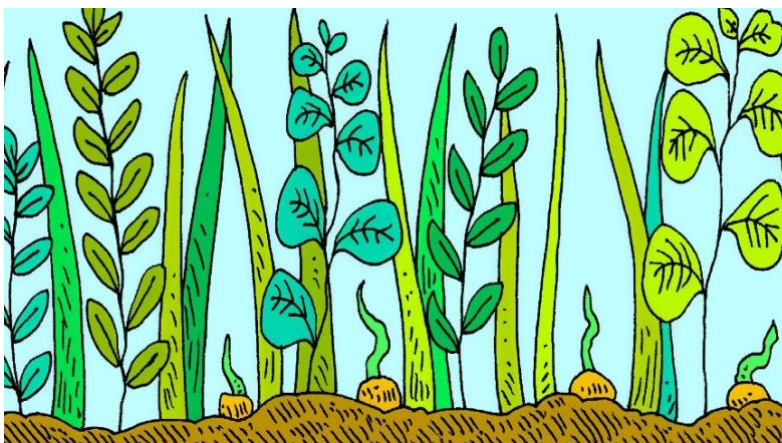
Worse than that!! They got eaten by hungry birds!

They won't get the chance to grow...



Some of them fell on rocky ground. They grew up quickly but they didn't put down deep roots and they got burned up by the sun.

So they didn't grow much either!



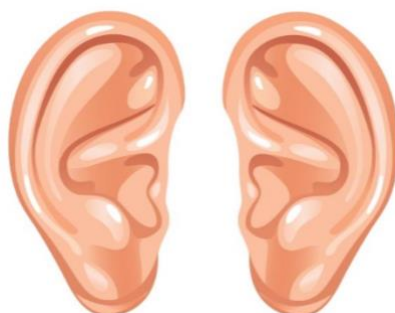
Some of the seeds fell among weeds and thorns, there they grew up but soon got choked by the other plants, who took all the space, drank all the water and stopped them reaching the sun.

They didn't grow well either!



But some of the seeds fell on good soil. There they were able to grow. They grew a fantastic crop. The plants made much grain; Some made 100 times more grain...

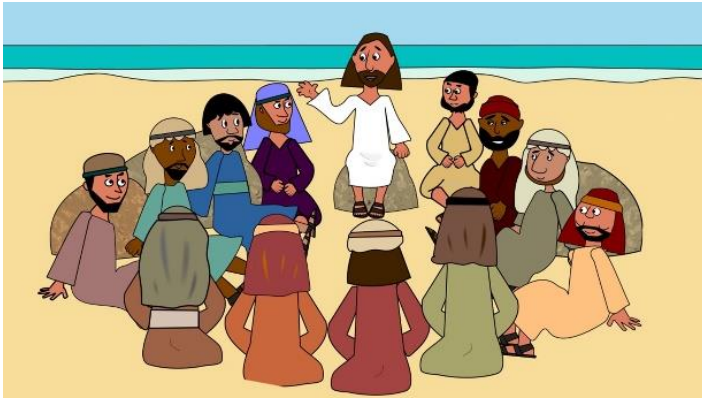
It was an amazing crop.



Jesus then made a joke

"Let those with ears hear!"

You can have an ear of wheat or an ear to hear!!!!



His disciples then asked him, what does this story mean?

Jesus answered... The seeds are like the teaching of God and the ground or soil is like different types of people.



The seeds that land on the road are like people who hear the good news about God's love but for some reason, maybe they listen to the world and the 'Devil,' so they forget the Good News about God straight away. They don't become friends of God.



The seeds that fall on rocky ground are like people who hear the good news of God's love. They are happy to follow God, but they maybe stop going to church, or don't take time to pray or read the Bible. When troubles come they quickly give up and stop following God as well



The seeds that grow with the thorns and weeds grow up very well. They are happy and excited to be friends of God. Then worries and fears and problems come into their lives. These worries, fears and problems stop them from trusting in God and they fall away.



The seeds that fall onto the good soil are like people who hear the Good News about God and are excited to live God's way. They take time to make friends with Him, praying and reading His word in the Bible. When they get worries, fears and problems they tell God about them. They grow in God's love and tell other people how good it is to be a child of God.

This means that other people come to know God as well! They encourage lots of other people to become friends of God.

What do we need to be that good soil?

Psalm 1 says that people are blessed if they follow God's teaching.

*"They love the Lord's teachings and think about them day and night. They grow strong, like a tree planted by a stream." Psalm 1:2-3*



Like a tree that needs water to grow, we need to read about God's love in the Bible, we need to pray and worship God together. This will help us to grow, like the plants in the good soil, we will grow strong and when things are hard, at home or at school, we will have the strength to keep going and we will be able to help other people follow God as well.

And that is what the 'Parable of the Sower' is all about....

### Links

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ipYXI6ZS28&t=5s> Heather tells 'The Story of the Sower' Matthew 13:1-23

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb7bvF5Ucrk> Cartoons of the story

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZEO\\_Ls2ERs&t=33s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZEO_Ls2ERs&t=33s)

<https://www.dltk-kids.com/t.asp?t=https://www.dltk-kids.com/bible/crosswords/b-crossword-withwords-sower.gif> Crossword for the children

“Behold, a sower  
went out to sow.”

Mark 4:3

A man sowed some seed. Some seed fell aside and was eaten by birds. Some fell among stones and grew quickly but had no root and soon died. Some fell among thorns and as it grew it choked and died. The last of the seed fell on good ground and produced a strong crop. Jesus explained that the seed is like the word of God. Those who were eaten by birds rejected the word and lost it. Those on stony ground liked the word but did not believe it properly and stumbled in difficulties. Those in the thorns worried too much about things in this world to grow. The seed in the good ground represents the people who hear and love the word and are faithful. They grow strong because of it and strengthen those around them.

