

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

Hey, good morning, good morning everybody. I'm Pastor Rob, one of the pastors here. Good job making it here this morning, Sunday morning, just give yourself a pat on the back. It's a pretty big deal getting up on Sunday mornings, getting the kids all out of the house sometimes, or checking out online. Glad you guys are here. Sometimes just a little, you know, celebrate little things, making it out of the house on a Sunday morning, that's a pretty good celebration, being here. Good job. Just thinking about investing some time on a Sunday morning, refreshing yourself, coming before the Lord. Thank you so much, worship bands, so glad to have you guys leading us, just amazing. I'm looking forward to more worship afterwards.

So many amazing things happen here at the church, just a ton of great things. You're part of a community where people are very active. Just yesterday our fathers, fathers and sons, K-5, they went on a camping trip, had about 25 dads with their sons. And I tell you what, I went up yesterday with my son and it was like herding cats, you know, but, but it was awesome. These little kids, they just had fun together, they connected over s'mores and shoving pot cream pies in their dad's faces. Can you believe the things that dads do for their sons?



like herding cats

Amazing morning, just a beautiful day out. First service, did you know our high schoolers run the program for middle schoolers? Isn't that amazing? Every Sunday morning our high schoolers are running the middle school program, it's just fantastic. This morning they were up there playing in the band, and we had a high school student this morning actually who was doing the teaching. It was fantastic. Just all around people are active, men's ministry, women's ministry, so much happening here in our church.



We're starting a new series, PARABLES series. So glad you're here with us. We're still in the book of Matthew. We just finished up the End Times series, now we're going to come back a few chapters, we're going to go to Matthew 13. We're going to start off with the parable of the sower. We're going to do one more series in Matthew and then we're going to switch it up, so we'll bring it through the end of July, just for those of you who like to know what's coming, like to plan ahead. So we're going to be looking at the parables. Small stories, big truths.

Jesus is amazing. I'll tell you what. Jesus is amazing as a teacher. He's the sort of guy if He had a mike He'd be dropping His mike all the time and walking off the stage, just like – BOOM! – walking off the stage. Just telling us things, explaining things to us in ways that our simple human minds can understand. Parables, that's what we're going to get into; the parable of the sower. This is the way it's set up, the parable the sower, it's a very familiar parable for many of you if you've grown up around the church. It's a story of a guy so sowing seed and some of it falls on a path, some of it falls into rocks, some of it falls into thorns, some of it falls into good soil. The interesting thing about this parable is that Jesus tells it the first time, He tells it to a crowd; so He's telling it to people who aren't His closest followers. There's a group of people who came to Him and are listening, and then He'll tell it again later

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

on. So we'll look at both of them. He tells it to the disciples. So it's interesting that we could think through when we're studying this parable—are you thinking through the lens of the soil, or are you thinking through the lens of the sower? So we're going to read Matthew 13:1-9 together.

This is Jesus, He's standing in a boat, the Sea of Galilee, and probably along, all around the Sea of Galilee, there's probably fields, maybe there's people sowing, farming at that time. Jesus has given them like a Sony Surround Sound experience. He's teaching them something, He's giving them as much of, like, a full-color explanation of spiritual truths using a very common, something very common to them. So what I want you to do when I read it the first time, I'm going to read it from the point of view of the soils, I want you to do your best to make-believe you haven't heard the explanation of it yet. We'll go through that next. So put yourself in the shoes of the crowd who's just hearing it as Jesus teaches it to them from the boat. Then what we're going to do is we're going to go to it from the perspective of the sower and we're going to do just a couple verses at a time and we're going to walk through it.

I've been just so surprised. Parables, metaphors that Jesus gives us are like drips in our life that just keep on speaking truth and there's been so much as we've studied this parable just over this last week with my family, my wife and I, just the deep, rich conversations. I thought I knew this parable, but there's so many rich, spiritual truths. Jesus is just like dropping the mike constantly in my life. He's just BOOM! – Rob – BOOM! – here, pay attention to this, here's another something for you to think about. I want to share that with you this morning. Will you let me? You guys excited again in the Scripture? Oh, yeah, that's great. Wouldn't you know it, I forgot my glasses in my bag, sweetheart, [LOOKS AT HIS WIFE IN THE AUDIENCE] they're in the pouch in the front. But let me see if I could do my best [HOLDS HIS BIBLE AT ARM'S LENGTH IN FRONT OF HIM].

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)

Thank you [HIS WIFE HANDS HIM HIS GLASSES]. Isn't she amazing everybody? She should be up on the... [APPLAUSE] yeah, you could clap for my beautiful wife. She lives with me, she's awesome, she takes care of me when I forget stuff.

So He's given us very practical spiritual truths using something common. Here at Calvary, if you've met me, the first time you met me, this will probably be about the lines that you'll hear. So let me tell you about three things that we're excited about. We take—we invest in our next generation—take really good care of kids, youth, young adults. Secondly, we're all about getting you connected to community. That's why I have this Church Center app. Thirdly, we're a Christ-first church meaning we're all about Jesus, all about Scripture. And the next question I would ask you is hey, if a friend walked up to you right now and said. "What does it mean to be a believer, a Christian? I want to become a Christian. Can you explain it to me?" Would you be able to do it? That's a common conversation I've been having in the Café with people.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

God has been using the pandemic to draw people to Himself and He's been using our church. We've been getting to be involved in His Kingdom work. The seed of the Kingdom we're going to talk about is powerful. We're involved in something eternal as a church. Over and over again I've just heard people's stories of how God's using the pandemic and they say, "Oh, I think He gave the pandemic just for me to stir up my heart and to get me to come back to church." We've had people placing their faith in Christ almost every week, young and old, men and women, kids.

Just a couple months ago I had this young couple walk up to me and they were engaged to be married and they knew for sure that they weren't believers. Courtney and Nick is their names. You know why they showed up at the church? They saw that they had Christian friends around them and they saw the marriages that their Christian friends had, and they saw the brokenness of the world around them, but they saw their Christians friends' marriages and they said, "There's something there, I don't know what that is, but there's something there. They have power in their marriage. We want that." That's what brought them to church. They were very open and they knew they knew nothing of Christianity, so I walk them through, bring them over to the blue wall, I walk them through the Book, "God loves you. You know, you're sinner, there's a problem that separates us. This is where Jesus came." They placed their faith in Jesus, Courtney and Nick, just a couple months ago. It's amazing. And just to see the seed of life planted in their hearts.

You know, I've never done a marriage before. I hadn't been a pastor, I've been asked, I've been administrative, but I said, "No, let's keep that in the church." I'm doing my very first wedding for Courtney and Nick, isn't that amazing? [APPLAUSE] Courtney and Nick, are you guys here right now? You guys know I'm doing a shout out, you're around someplace, you're shy though. That's all right, Nick, you can be shy. So June 19th, gonna do their wedding, and they're so excited about bringing Jesus into their world, into their marriage, and even sharing Jesus with their friends. I'm just looking forward to seeing how this seed works. God is at work. He's doing amazing things.



There are things in this passage, in this parable, when I first read it I thought it was purely talking about salvation, but we're going to see that there's a message here whether or not you became a Christian when you're a little kid and you've been walking with Jesus for a lifetime, or you just became a Christian last week, there's a message here. **"He who has ears, let him hear"** – Jesus is beckoning us, He's calling us into a mystery, He's calling us into something powerful. Let's read through, let's start up here, let's take a look at Matthew 13:18-19, much easier to read with my glasses, thank you.

18 "Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path."

– MATTHEW 13:18-19 (ESV)

There is rocky soil. If you're listening to the ears of the soils—maybe you're here for the first time, maybe you're checking out first time online—maybe your heart, the soil of your heart which Jesus shows us in this passage, maybe it's hard, maybe you have a hard heart right now. There's a lot of reasons. I find a lot of times in this culture people feel inoculated to the Gospel. They grew up going to church their entire lives, they've heard it all, "I don't need to hear it again." When it talks about *understand*, understand also isn't just an intellectual thing. Maybe you've grown up in the church and you've heard it over and over again and you could explain to me who Jesus is. This Word *understand* is more like "perceives."

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

I was talking to Pastor John this week about this, and Pastor John said he understood intellectually the Gospel from a young age, but it wasn't until he was later in his teens that that seed finally broke the soil and he perceived the weight of what we're talking about here. This seed is powerful, friends. The seed of the Kingdom, this isn't just about salvation; salvation is a part of Jesus' Kingdom, but this is the seed of the Kingdom, the seed changes everything. The seed changes individual lives and hearts and then it multiplies. The seed changes our culture, it changes our relationships, it changes our marriages. The Kingdom of God is a beautiful place. The Kingdom of God – there will be no racism, there will be no poor and needy, there'll be no hatred, there'll be no wars, there'll be no famine. God's Kingdom will change everything.

There's another young woman, and I won't use her real name, I'll call her Maddie. Just a few months ago Maddie walks up to the Blue Wall to talk to me in the Café afterwards, I hadn't met her before. She had never been here, she just knew that God was drawing her to church. She's like, "There's something... I'm messed up, I need help." A beautiful young woman, in her 20's probably. I asked her about sharing what Christianity is. She couldn't do it. "Go to church, I think. Maybe read your Bible, help little old ladies cross the street." That's usually people's general idea of what Christianity is all about, be good and you'll make it.

Started going through the Gospel—God loves you, there's a problem, our sinfulness, Jesus is the answer to the problem. Why did Jesus have to die? Why couldn't Jesus have just been beat up for our sins? Can you answer that question, friends? Why did He have to die? There are good answers for that, logical answers. I love how logical Christianity is. And now you see, I get to see this in Maddie's eyes such as I've seen a number of times in our Café when the seed finally breaks through the soil, the seed is powerful. She wells up, people cry all the time when they finally understand that Jesus died for them, it's like she had her first breath of Heaven.

Do you ever see those cochlear implant videos on YouTube where the little kids who can't hear, they finally get hearing and the joy and the life, and they hear their mother's voice for the first time? I think Heaven is going to be like that, but the seed of the Gospel is Heaven here on earth. She cries and weeps, the Gospel is powerful and weighty, and the seed of the Kingdom is powerful. So powerful that the birds of the air, Satan, doesn't even want this basic, simple, beautiful truth that can multiply and will change the world—and *has* changed our world, friends—this Gospel truth has changed our world the birds of the air Satan doesn't even want that truth to come in contact with the concrete ground because he's afraid of it, because it's so powerful to change lives.

We did our best with Maddie. We set her up with an older woman in the church, we got her connected with friends her own age, but you never can tell. I haven't heard from Maddie in a while. It's been a number of months. Where's she at? What's the soil? I pray for her. Maddie, I hope you're listening. I pray for you constantly. But the seed of the Gospel, the seed of the Kingdom is powerful.

Let's go on. Next verse:

20 "As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away."

– MATTHEW 13:20-21 (ESV)

Don't you wonder if Jesus were today, what would His parables be about? Do you think He'd still do parables of farming? I don't really know too much about farming, it doesn't resonate... I've been on a

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

farm, my father-in-law has a farm, but you know, these sort of parables were meant more so for that context in that day. We learn a lot, we learn a ton. Don't you wonder what Jesus' parables He would use today though? Would it be, uh, driving down Business 30? I have no idea, you know, driving down through the traffic, hitting traffic. Would it be, uh, sitting at work in your cubicle? Maybe it would be a cubicle parable.

I think He would use movies for sure, amazing how many good movies there are. I think Jesus would be an Avengers fan, don't you? I think He for sure would like Marvel, uh, *Spider-Man* for sure, um, Uncle Ben has a lot of wisdom He could probably draw from. I'm pretty sure *Iron Man*. I can still not watch *Endgame* again because I was so mad about Iron Man at the end—sorry if it's a spoiler, too soon—but Iron Man gives up his life and everything that he loves for the sake of the world. Jesus! Got Gospel all over it! Maybe, ladies, it's Jack from *Titanic*, and I wasn't a fan of *Titanic* but, you know, Jack, it should be some parable I'm sure when *Titanic* came out.

It's amazing as you study parables though, you get to see Jesus' heart and His thinking. I was so surprised though in studying this that I think Jesus was a Sylvester Stallone fan, you know? Out of every actor why would He choose Sylvester Stallone? You're like, *What are you talking about, Rob?* Can you not see it in this? Like, are you not reading for yourselves? The rocky soil [LAUGHTER], [HE LAUGHS] I worked on that one forever! Actually, stay with me here, there was a point behind this. It was the rocky soil. Okay? And it actually started backwards, the reason I came, I didn't come with this and come up with an analogy, I came with an analogy and then I saw that Sylvester Stallone was in the passage already.

And so, think about boxing. Okay? You got left hook, you got left jab, tribulation; you got right hook, persecution. This is what happens with the seed of the Gospel. The seed comes into your life and it's natural you get thrown into the boxing ring. James 1:12 says you're going to get put to the test—

JAMES 1:12 (ESV)

Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

tribulation, persecution, tribulation, suffering, suffering. A lot of you guys know my story of Trey. *Bap! Bap!* [GESTURES BOXING JABS] Took a couple punches – *Boom! Boom!* [GESTURES HEAD BEING THROWN BACK] I had to figure out how to take a punch, had to figure out starting to move. Persecution [THROWS A RIGHT JAB].

Do we get persecuted? Yes, we do get persecuted as Christians in America, the persecution comes a little bit more subtly though.

Anytime we go against the flow – don't go that way [THROWS A PUNCH], do what the culture says. *Bap!* Persecution. You really believe that there was a big bang? No, wait, no, that's the opposite, no, how close is it? You really believe that you were created and not evolution? Oh, how stupid could you be?! *Bap!* Persecution. The problem is you gotta learn how to do this [GESTURES DEFLECTING PUNCHES], young people have to learn how to do this.

In college I did a little bit of boxing, just a little bit. I was an engineer and me and my roommate would get so frustrated about having to study he went and bought some boxing gloves. And so we'd set up the ring, we'd set up the ring in our room and we got so into it that the whole dorm would come and watch us box. And this was my problem in the ring. Okay, I get thrown in the ring, the problem is the guy that



THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

I boxed against his name was Eric, he was about 6'3" and had about [STRETCHES HIS ARM OUT] two or three inches more on me. All right? And he was a rower so he was really fit. I was a wrestler though, so I'd know how to... I was more like Rocky, I need to take the punches. But at first you get hit so many times getting punched you start getting headaches, and it's so easy to just like, "Enough of this boxing! I'm done! I'm sick of headaches." But instead, because I was young and dumb, I had to learn how to move. I was like, *I'm not giving up. I'm not letting this guy...* and I had to learn how to do this [MOVES SIDE TO SIDE] and I had to learn how to get in tight. If I tried to back up and start taking some swings, I couldn't even reach him. I had to get in there and learn how to move. I had to learn not to shut my eyes when I got punched.

How often when you hit tribulation or persecution you shut your eyes and just like, start to like, [MOANS AND GROANS], "I'm not gonna listen. I'm not doing it." You gotta learn how to move, you've gotta learn how to deflect. Tribulation happens. Persecution happens. You get stronger, you get better. We got fighting so hard that we had to sign a little treaty between ourselves that we wouldn't fight in front of anybody anymore, but I knew I had to get in there and I was a fighter with him. I was in there, I was in it just like Rocky. This is normal, friends, this is a normal part. If you're thinking through the eyes of the soil or through the eyes of the sower, you're not crazy that tribulation and persecution is hard. It's good just to look at my friends when they're experiencing tribulation and persecution, and say, "You're not crazy. You're not crazy. It is hard."

From the point of the sower though, if you have people in your life that you're trusting God for, like Maddie, I have to put her in God's hands. Often it's like a butterfly going into a chrysalis, you have to let the butterfly struggle to get out of the chrysalis. Do you know what happens if you break open the chrysalis too soon? The butterfly – the struggle pumps blood into the wings – if you break open the chrysalis too soon the butterfly will die. You have to let people learn.



Monarch butterfly chrysalis

For me as a young college student just, uh, just starting to walk with Jesus again, and I was on a summer mission with this college missions organization called Cru.

And I was spending the summer on a beach and we'd share our faith on the beach, we'd have jobs, it was up by Boston. And so one weekend we went in to share the Gospel and have conversations with college students in Boston. Of course, I have a conversation with, like, this real heady Harvard kid. All right? Persecution. [PUNCH] Dumb Rutgers' kid [PUNCH], how do you think that you know anything? I remember it, it was a hard moment. Honestly, he didn't have very good punches. There wasn't anything that the godly people around me couldn't answer well, he had very simple punches.

But what got me was: Do I think I'm that smart that a Harvard student doesn't know more than I do? That was a struggle, that was a struggle between me and the Lord. I went, I got some time with the Lord and I sat up on top of the roof of the summer project, the summer mission we're at which was a no-no and I did it anyway, that was the kind of guy Rob was. I was up on the roof having a time with the Lord weeping, "Lord, is this real?" This was a reckoning between me and God. This was me pumping blood through my wings in the chrysalis, weeping. The funny thing is, and I remember this, I think God gave me this, one single raindrop out of a perfectly blue sky landed right on my forehead and knocked me out of it. I have no idea, guys, in Heaven I might find that out, but it's a memorable moment. It's a memorable moment because, friends, when the seed's roots start to dig into the rocks of your life it hurts – but it's joyful. It's a breath of Heaven. You get stronger. Is God bringing you through tribulation and persecution right now? On the other side, Heaven, He reorients you, He grounds you. The seed of the Gospel is powerful and effective.

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

Let's go on to the thorns. Verse 22:

22 "As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful."

– MATTHEW 13:22 (ESV)

I think Jesus instead in today suburbia, I like to take this analogy of the sower and turn it into my version of, uh, farming, which is my grass. [HE LAUGHS] That's about as close to farming as I get, my grass. When I first moved in there was these little purple wild violets in my yard. Anyone else have problems with purple violets, wild violets in their yard? They are terrible. And you know what? I've been working on it for years and they're still there. They are just so invasive. The thing is about weeds is that they just take over, it's their natural soil to take over. They naturally – my wife and I have often said why isn't the grass more invasive? Why can't the grass be the thing that takes over? Why is it all this other nonsense that I'm trying to keep on fighting?



wild violets

I was so frustrated about it, I was like trying all the normal stuff with the wild violet, I had to go out to Minnesota where my wife's from and buy, like, go to the farm store and be like, "Give me the, gosh, give me whatever you got that could kill this stuff." They give me, like, the highest power 2,4-D and I go out and I spray it all the time and it's almost gone but it's still there. The point is it fights back. You know what? I walked out of my yard this week, walked out of my front, uh, you know, walkway. We had just done the mulching, you know, yard looks awesome and all this terrible amount of work, I look next to one of the bushes in the mulch and you know what I see? Not wild violet. Poison ivy! There's poison ivy right next to my walkway.

The point is, guys, is that the weeds and the thorns are the natural, they're the natural vegetation in our yards and in our lives. The deceitfulness of wealth and what better, like, guys, listen, this is very pertinent to us here in this room, Chester County. We are sitting—don't lose sight, don't be desensitized to this—we're sitting in the richest and most powerful country in the entire world, and we're sitting on the Eastern Seaboard, we're sitting in the megalopolis of the most richest and powerful country in the entire world. This environment is ripe for weeds. It is ripe for weeds. This question of the thorns, really friends, if you were, you know, at a young age you became a Christian, you notice it's the seed of the *Kingdom*, this applies to us as well. Jesus is challenging us on our goals. As a Christian, do you want to know what your purpose in life is? It's right here—the purpose is Jesus' Kingdom; flat out, making decisions in life as a believer is about Jesus' Kingdom. Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you as well.

MATTHEW 6:33 (ESV)

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

I remember this moment, I remember this moment in college, you know, I used to drink, do drugs, yada, yada, yada. Giving that up was one thing, it was much more difficult for me to give up the thorns of the deceitfulness of wealth as being my goal; to have a well-paying job. I was an engineer at Rutgers, graduated with honors. Who cares in light of eternity? Seriously. I'm just telling you this to give some color. But to give that up for the sake of following His Kingdom, to give up a house with a white picket fence, and I wanted a four-wheeler. I had a four-wheeler when I was younger, I needed a new four-wheeler, and I wanted a Mustang, but to give that up I wept harder than giving up drugs and alcohol. I don't cry a lot, by the way, I'm just telling you the times that I cry because they're memorable

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

moments. I was sitting in the back seat of my friend's car on Route 18 in central New Jersey right outside of Rutgers, and I don't even remember who was driving. I remember right where I was at though, where there was a reckoning between me and the Lord and the roots were digging in from the seed, the powerful seed that He had placed in my heart, and I knew that I had to seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness and not worry about those other things. They come later. Seek first His Kingdom, later comes these other things – maybe, maybe not.

You know what I'd, you know what I, uh, I told you guys how I had to give up my picket fence, white picket fence. Do you know what I did over the pandemic? Put in a white pick fence. [HE LAUGHS] I'm not saying God doesn't bless us. I'm not saying that. Maybe He will, maybe He won't. I'm just saying the soil here, the environment here that we're living in in Chester County especially for our youth, I could get very impassioned for our youth. As a sower the best thing for you to do is to be a good example. How easy is it for us to look at our children in our youth and say, "As long as they work hard and they study and they're taking their grades in college seriously, and they're going after a high-paying job and, like, a productive college education, as long as they're doing that they're in good soil"? We know that's not true. We know that's not true. If you're thinking through being a sower, the best thing to do is live as a good example; for you to put Jesus' Kingdom first before the things of this world.

**NOT
TRUE**

Verse 23, Kingdom is powerful, His seed is powerful:

23 "As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

– MATTHEW 13:23 (ESV)

Make no mistake, friends, this church is about furthering Jesus' Kingdom in this community. Straight up, honest from the front, we do wonderful events. Our people put on splash nights and the kids go to wonderful programs, and we do bouncy houses out front. Don't confuse us with a country club. We are not a country club, although there are very many similarities. There's a community like a country club, people come and interact together and have common interests. Gotta keep the place clean, you gotta keep the lights on, you gotta pay the bills. You pay dues to your country club. It's a corporation as well, so many things that go together with it, community corporation.

Our cause though is utterly different than a country club. Our cause is to see the seed of the Kingdom multiply in our lives, in our community, in the surrounding area. That's why we're involved in local ministries, that's why we're involved and we're always proclaiming the Gospel. That's why we're encouraging you to invite your friends because we have the power of the seed of the Gospel here. And how many Christians are there actually in Chester County? If we just counted up the number of us that are in church right now of good evangelical churches, there's not many. This soil around us, it's up to us, it's up to you. The seed of the Kingdom is powerful – that's the church that we're in, that's the church we're inviting you guys to be a part of to make Jesus known.

Just like [Pastor] Lee talks about the two crosses, we're here to help people find Jesus, we're here to help people follow Jesus, and we're here to help people fulfill Jesus' mission for their lives. And we'd love for you to join with us all across the board in all areas. We believe that the Gospel will multiply and the multiplying will happen through you. Will you join with us?

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 1 | 6.6.2021

You know, before I pray just wanted to let you know, one of the women came up to me this week and let me know that Maddie got back to her, responded to a text—because the Gospel is powerful and life-changing and effective. And Jesus, if you're sitting here thinking about if the seed is in your soil, Jesus is more committed to the seed growing in the soil of your heart than you are. Take heart, Jesus loves us. Jesus wants to give us a life, wants to give us purpose, wants to give us a life. He wants to give us a community that maybe none of us have ever seen or experienced or imagined before because the seed of the Kingdom is powerful. Let me pray.

Lord,

Thank You so much for your Word. I thank You for the seed of the Kingdom. I thank You that we get to be wrapped up in your grander story. Lord, I thank You for Jesus, just how, just simplified things and I just... if we didn't have this parable how confused would we be. We're so simple and we thank You, Jesus, for understanding us. Thank You for using us. I pray, Lord, that You would continue to use us as a church.



Lord, I pray that we'd see lives changed and souls saved and families reconciled. I pray for everyone here and everyone listening, Lord. If they don't know You, Lord, I pray that they would perceive the weight of what they're hearing, that this changes everything. Use us, Lord, thank You.

WATCH OR LISTEN



Scripture quotations marked (ESV) were taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Accessed on biblegateway.com

Images: Images appearing in this transcript were obtained from DuckDuckGo image searches (attributed sources are shown in parentheses). Pg 1-herding cats (scotttcochrane.com); Pg 3-bride/groom silhouette (jing.fm); Pg 5-film strip (pixabay.com), *Spider-Man* (inextmovies.vip), *Iron Man* (themoviedb.org), *Titanic* (rob911.blogspot.com), *Rocky* (rogerebert.com); Pgs 5 & 7-parchment background (wookee.co.uk); Pg 6—chrysalis (interestinginsects.com), Cru (cru.org); Pg 7-wild violets (survival.news); Pg 9-praying hands (pixabay.com). Additional sources: CF logo in the footer and "Parables" on Pg 1 (sermon video screenshot); "Watch or Listen" buttons, CF (sermon video screenshot); YouTube (youtube.com), SoundCloud (soundcloud.com); all other graphics were created by the transcriber.

Keywords: seed, soil, Kingdom, parable, powerful

COPYRIGHT © 2021 – ROB MITTUCH – ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.