

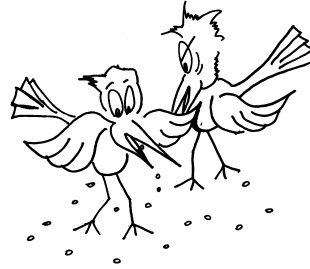
Parable of the Soils

Mark 4:1-9 God's Word Translation

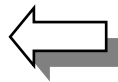
"Jesus began to teach again by the Sea of Galilee. A very large crowd gathered around him, so he got into a boat and sat in it. The boat was in the water while the entire crowd lined the shore. {2} He used stories as illustrations to teach them many things. While he was teaching them, he said,

{3} "Listen! A farmer went to plant seed.

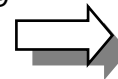
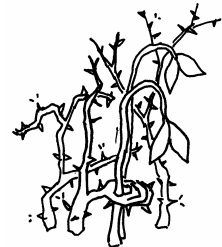
{4} Some seeds were planted along the road, and birds came and devoured them.



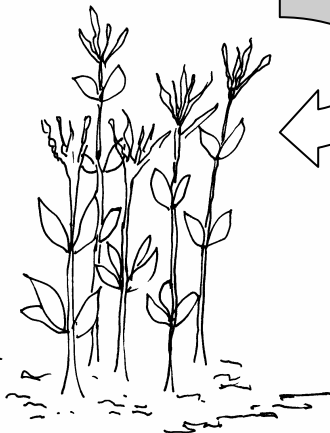
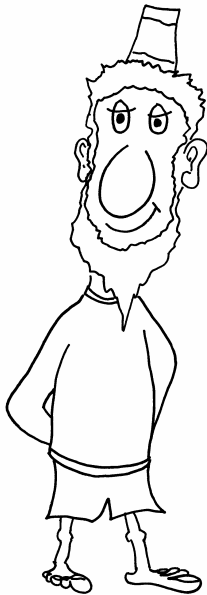
{5} Other seeds were planted on rocky ground, where there wasn't much soil. The plants sprouted quickly because the soil wasn't deep. {6} When the sun came up, they were scorched. They didn't have any roots, so they withered.



{7} Other seeds were planted among thornbushes. The thornbushes grew up and choked them, and they didn't produce anything.



{8} But other seeds were planted on good ground, sprouted, and produced thirty, sixty, or one hundred times as much as was planted."



What is a parable?

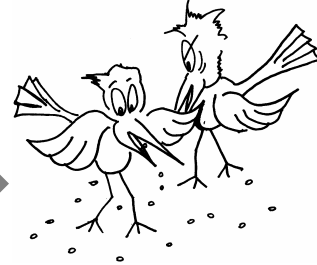
A parable is a story, that uses things we are familiar with, to make a point or illustrate a truth from the Bible. Jesus told this story because the people who were listening knew about planting seed. What do you think He was really talking about?

Mark 4:13-20 God's Word Translation

"Jesus asked them, "Don't you understand this story? How, then, will you understand any of the stories I use as illustrations?"

{14} "The farmer plants the word. {15} Some people are like seeds that were planted along the road. Whenever they hear the word, Satan comes at once and takes away the word that was planted in them.

When you hear God's Word, let it stay and grow in your heart. Do not let the devil steal it from you.



{16} Other people are like seeds that were planted on rocky ground. Whenever they hear the word, they accept it at once with joy. {17} But they don't develop any roots. They last for a short time. When suffering or persecution comes along because of the word, they immediately fall from faith.

It is not always easy to serve God and keep a good testimony about yourself. You must allow the Word of God to be rooted in your life. Then you will pass every hard time or test in life. God will never be ashamed of you.

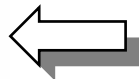
{18} Other people are like seeds planted among thornbushes. They hear the word, {19} but the worries of life, the deceitful pleasures of riches, and the desires for other things take over. They choke the word so that it can't produce anything.



You do not ever need to worry. You should not desire riches. Trust in the Lord with all your heart and He will always take care of you, provide for you and be with you. Allow the Word of God to speak to you and tell you the truth – that Jesus Christ is always there for you.



{20} Others are like seeds planted on good ground. They hear the word, accept it, and produce crops--thirty, sixty, or one hundred times as much as was planted.""



If you will trust God's Word, you will see your blessings multiplied up to a hundred times. God's Word is the Bible, and it is your friend. It always speaks the truth. It will guide you to do the right thing. Be sure to spend lots of time with your Bible.

