

Sermon Outline - Sun, March 7, 2021 – Parable of the Sower – Kids' Sermon

Overview: Last year we were reading Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler when the pandemic hit. Now a year later we come back to this theme by looking at the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. We start with the first story in this chapter.

Story Exegesis

- What is a Parable? = Story. Jesus tells parables so people will understand his message
- Jesus tells story about seeds because many people would have been farmers or would have known about growing things
- What is a Sower? = Multiple meanings of the word. Difference between sew and sow
- What do plants need to live and grow? – sun and water.
- They also need soil and Jesus talks about the different types of soil and how well the plants can flourish

Key Points –

1. **Soil on the side of the road** – That soil is compacted and pushed down and the seed can't get into the soil. Because they sit on top the birds come along and eat them.
Application - Many of us have hard soil because so many things have pushed us down on us that we become hard headed or heard hearted and unable to grow.
2. **Rocky soil** – The rocks can't feed the seed and they block the roots. Rocks can also cause too much drainage so the water doesn't stay around like it would in good soil. Plants get dry or stunted.
Application – Sometimes we have barriers in our lives that are standing in the way. We get into the soil a little bit but we can't get the nutrients that we need because those rocks are keeping us from getting the growth we need.
3. **Thorny Soil** – Another plant is already there. It is taking up all the nutrients, water and sun so the new seed can get what it needs and it gets choked.
Application – Sometimes there is another plant growing in our soil and we are giving it the energy that we should be giving to our spiritual life (our job, a relationship, etc.)
4. **Good soil** – Protects the seed and allows it to get nutrients from soil, nourishment from the water, and allows the roots to form well.

Jesus says that a lot of us can't become who we are supposed to be because there are issues in our soil. Sometimes the things that prevent us from growing are things that we didn't do ourselves – maybe we have generational trauma that we need to work through to break up that soil. No matter what Jesus wants to help us remedy our soil so that we can grow!

Core Questions –

1. Is there a situation or oppression that has you feeling pushed down and walked on? What can you do to break up and free your soil?
2. Are there big rocks that are stopping your plants from getting the water and nutrients from the soil? How can you break down or move those rocks?
3. Is there anything else in your life that you have focused on so much that nothing else can grow in your soil? What can you do to make room for the growth God wants for you?