

Sowing the future together: Good Soil

A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

Matthew 13:3-9

Introduction:

At the time when Jesus was teaching this parable farming methods were very different to today. Seed was scattered by hand, leading inevitably to some being sown in unproductive places. The fields were ploughed after the seed was sown and roads and paths often went straight through them. The ensuing traffic led to hard and unyielding soil.

Jesus told this parable to illustrate the growth of the Kingdom of God. In the parable the sower is anyone who scatters the message about the kingdom of God. The seed is the message, (God's Word), the soil the lives of those who receive the seed and how they respond; how the kingdom of God grows because of their lives.

Reflection & encouragement:

As Christians we are all "good soil". We have responded to the message of Christ (the planting of his love in our lives). We are already part of his Kingdom and benefit from the rule of God in our lives.

So in a real way we have now become the sowers in the parable. God has produced good seed in our lives and now we, in our turn, can sow it, and help others to sow to further the Kingdom of God.

Reflect on the different types of soil in the parable. How do we ensure that we work where there will be the most harvest for the future and our efforts are not wasted?

In the parable the sower worked alone. We, however, have the privilege of working alongside others and gaining support and help from one another. Jesus modelled this with the disciples; he was very much a "team person".

Reflect on the vision of Mothers' Union and consider how we can work together to sow God's love and grow his Kingdom.

If, as well as being sowers, our lives are also good soil, then we need to remember to take time to nurture ourselves spiritually; to embrace God's principle of resting as well as working – otherwise we'll have no store of God's love and no energy to sow!

Consider how we can nurture our relationship with God that he may provide us with his seeds, and the ongoing strength to keep sowing.

Fruitful God
Plant in us your seeds
of love and inspiration
that together we may sow a future
for the growth of your kingdom on earth.
Amen

