



The Parable Of THE SOWER

"While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: 'A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up.' Luke 8:4-5 (NIV)

"This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved." Luke 8:11-12 (NIV)

STORY

MEANING



SPEED NEVER SATISFIES

FRESH FROM THE GARDEN

Welcome to *A Seed To Sow*! Our first lesson from **Fresh From The Garden** finds us listening to Jesus as He teaches a large crowd about the GOOD NEWS of God's Kingdom. Jesus often teaches through parables, or stories. Today's story is called: *The Parable of the Sower*. Each lesson, we will look at two aspects of this parable: The story and the meaning of the story. **Fresh From The Garden** will cover the story. **Bloom Where You Are Planted** will cover the meaning. Let's get started and read Luke 8:1-5.

First, let's answer some **foundational questions** about this parable. We will ask these questions each lesson. It's the who, what, when, where, and why. Don't worry, you are not in English class, and there won't be a quiz. Well, maybe!

- Who is the main character? _____
- What does he do in this story? _____
- What does "sow" mean? _____
- Where does the seed fall? _____
- What happens to this seed? _____

When a seed is planted, what is expected to happen? Yes. It is expected to grow into the purpose God has for it. But in this case, what happens? The seed has no time to grow because they are stepped on. Not to mention some pesky birds swoop down and eat them up. The seed is scattered on the path. How is a seed supposed to grow in this environment?

BLOOM WHERE YOU ARE PLANTED.

As a quick reminder, this section: **Bloom Where You Are Planted** is where we will discuss the meaning of the story. Let's begin by reading Luke 8:11-12 and answer more **foundational questions** about this parable.

- What is the seed? _____
- Who represents the seed that falls along the path? _____
- What happens to the seed? _____
- Who snatches it away? _____
- Why does Satan want to snatch away the seed (the Word of God)? _____

Satan is not someone we usually talk about. But the reality is, he is the evil villain doing his best to take away God's truth from our hearts. Jesus uses the Parable of the Sower to warn us against his evil deeds. Today, we will learn that one of his tactics is **speed!** The quicker he can snatch the truth, the better. Satan's fast, but God is faster. God is warning us about his trick of speed and giving us a battle plan!



Fertilizer SIT DOWN AND BE STILL

•SEEDS TO SOW•

Would you agree that life is super fast? We have fast food, fast internet, texting, Instagram, and Facebook. We even get annoyed when we have to wait for something! Satan knows this, too. The Fungus of the Day (Satan's trick) is: **Speed**. When we are so busy thinking about the next best thing, we miss out on the present moment. Have you ever been too busy for God? When we are speeding through life, it seems hard to find time to SIT DOWN AND BE STILL. But that's exactly what God wants us to do. Why? Slowing down gives the seed **time** to grow. Read Psalm 46:10 and answer the questions.

"Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

- What is God telling us to do in order to get to know Him?
- Why do you think being still is important? • How is this the opposite of SPEED?

Open up your Bibles and read James 1:19-21.

- How is the word **QUICK** used in this verse? • How is the word **SLOW** used?
- Why should we accept the Word **PLANTED** in us?

God knows the seed is the WORD of God planted in us for our good! The Word is the Bible and teaches us about God. When we are **STILL**, knowing and believing in God, we are sowing a rich relationship with Him. And it ALL begins with a **seed**. If we are too busy, allowing the fast pace of this world to distract us, we will never experience the overflowing goodness of God's Word **PLANTED** into our hearts. Planting takes **TIME**. Today, let's make it a point to **SIT** and spend time in the Word of God.

Challenge: Where in your life do you need to **SLOW** down to spend more time with God?