

Bible Study 50 Sowing Seeds

BY RICH RATTS

Read Matthew 13:1-23, Mark 4:1-20, 26-29 and Luke 8:4-15.

Describe the four different kinds of soil referred to in this parable.

List the responsibilities of the sower.

What was Jesus teaching us about spreading the gospel?

It's interesting that Jesus didn't discuss any possibilities of how the sower could enhance the yield of his crop. Notice that the four kinds of soil differed in only one way. The same seed was used in each by the same farmer using the same method. The only difference was in the preparation of the soil.

What does that imply about spreading the gospel effectively?

Make a simple list of the things you would do if you were planting and growing a garden.

How many of the things that you listed occur *before* you plant the seed? _____

How many of the things that you listed occur *after* you plant the seed? _____

Some of my neighbors have beautiful lawns and gardens. They spend a tremendous amount of time working in their yards. They weed, they feed, they weed some more, and then they feed some more. Not me. I mow, and then let her grow!

So, what's the difference between my yard and theirs? Well, I mostly grow a crop of weeds and wild grass, while their yards look like snapshots out of a *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine. The Bible says that you reap what you sow. In other words, what you get out of something is often determined by what you put into it.

“Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop”
(MATTHEW 13:8, NIV).

Certainly sowing the seeds of the gospel is more important than working in any garden or lawn. Growing new believers is infinitely more critical than growing a tulip. Isn't it awesome that God allows you and me the privilege of working with Him in His fields?

Name some specific people or groups of people in your mission fields.

What are some of the stones, weeds, thorns and hard ground in their lives that need to be broken or removed?

What are three things that you can do to better prepare the "fields" for the seeds of the gospel?

List five different ways that you can plant "seed" in the "soil" of your fields.

What will you do to nurture the seed once you have scattered it?

What does Mark 4:26-29 tell us about our efforts and abilities as farmers in God's garden?

Jesus tells us that when we hear and understand His Word our lives will produce a crop. In fact, we will yield 30, 60 or 100 times what is sown.

God's Word is full of precious promises. One of my favorites is found in this parable. Jesus tells us that when we hear and understand His Word our lives will produce a crop. In fact, we will yield 30, 60 or 100 times what is sown. That's pretty good production!

Spend time praying about your spiritual gardening. Ask God to give you spiritual eyes to see the fields He has placed right in front of you. Ask Him to strengthen you and guide you through the process of preparing the soil and nurturing the seedlings for His kingdom.