The Sower

Study & Discussion Questions

01

Passage · Matthew 13:1–6

The One · With publisher's permission

> *That same day Jesus left the house and was sitting on the seashore (Mk 4:1) teaching.*
> *(M) 2 The throng around Him grew so large that He climbed into a boat and remained sitting in it while the crowd stood on the beach.*
>
> *3 From the boat He casually told them many things in parables as He continued speaking:*
> *"A farmer went out to sow.*
>
> *4 As he sowed, some seeds fell by the roadside, (L8:5) where people walked on them (M) and birds (L8:6) of the sky (M) ate them.*
>
> *5 Others fell on rocky ground, where they didn't have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, because they had no depth of soil.*
>
> *6 When the sun had risen, they were scorched and because they had no root, (L8:7) or moisture, (M) they withered away.*
>
> *7 Others fell among thorns. The thorns grew and choked them and (Mk 4:8) they yielded no fruit.*
>
> *(M) 8 Others fell on good soil and yielded fruit: some one hundred times as much, some sixty, and some thirty.*
>
> *9 Let those who have ears (Mk 4:9) to listen, (M) let them hear."*

02

Commentary

Bill Perkins

"The seed is the word of God." — Lu 8:11

Jesus steps out of the house
and sits beside the sea. (Mt 13:1–2)
The crowds gather,
and He gives them one word—
the word that shapes
everything that follows:

Sower.

Not because every parable
is about farming,
but because every parable shows
what the message does
once it is sown
by the Sower.

The seed is the message
of the Kingdom— (Mt 13:19)
the announcement
that the King has come.

In Galilee, sowing came first.
Plowing came later.
Seed was cast wide,
trusting the plow
to turn the soil.

Jesus uses that rhythm
to reveal the generosity
of the Sower.

The Kingdom begins
not with force,
spectacle,
or pressure,
but with a word
sown freely. (Mk 4:14)

The Sower scatters seed
on the path,
on the rocks,
among the thorns,
into good soil. (Mt 13:4–8)
He is not cautious.
He is generous.

You may not know this about Jesus—
He sows
because He seeks a harvest. (Jn 4:35–38)
He sows
because the seed carries life. (1 Pt 1:23)

He sows
because the Kingdom grows
in those who hear. (Mk 4:20)

03

Reflection Question

What kind of soil is my heart today — and what is Jesus inviting me to do about it?

04

What This Means to Me

The Sower never stops sowing.
Even when the soil is me—
distracted,
shallow,
crowded—
He keeps scattering seed.

The seed is always good.
The question is the soil.

So I come to Him honestly.
I ask Him to break up
what has grown hard,
to pull the thorns
I keep watering,
to deepen what is shallow.

The Kingdom grows
in those who hear.
I want to be
good soil.

05

Discussion Questions

1. What does this parable show about how Jesus brings the Kingdom?
2. What part of the Sower’s generosity stands out to you?
3. How would you describe the condition of your heart today?
4. What distractions or pressures compete with God’s voice in you?

5 How do we also “sow” the message of the Kingdom?

6 Who do you find yourself sowing the Word into most naturally?

7 This week how might you receive the word sown into your heart and how can our group pray for you about this?

06

Prayer

Father,
You sow Your word freely,
without caution,
trusting the seed to carry life.

Break up the hard ground in me.
Uproot the thorns.
Give me depth of soil.

Let the word sown into my heart
take root
and bear fruit—
thirty, sixty,
a hundred times what was sown.

I ask in Jesus’ name.
Amen.