

Investigating Jesus

Jesus' Parable of the Sower and the Seed

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How does Jesus grow his kingdom?

¹ After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, ² and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; ³ Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means." **Luke 8:1-3, NIV**

Jesus proclaimed the good news to anyone who would listen.

⁴ While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ⁵ "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. ⁶ Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."
When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear." **Luke 8:4-8, NIV**

A farmer plants seed for a reason.
He wants things to grow.

⁹ His disciples asked him what this parable meant. ¹⁰ He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that,

"though seeing, they may not see;
though hearing, they may not understand."

Luke 8:9-10, NIV

God doesn't let haters thwart his purpose.

¹¹ "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² 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. ¹³ Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. **Luke 8:11-15, NIV**

God's Word to me us under constant threat.

- From pride Humility
- From pushback Authority
- From competition Priority
- From waiting Perseverance

God's Word is always effective.

¹⁶ “No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light.” ¹⁷ For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open. ¹⁸ Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.” **Luke 8:16-18, NIV**

What are you trying to grow in your life?

Hoe and weed your heart. Listen carefully.

CrossWalk is committed to teaching the Bible’s words and promises so that the Holy Spirit will transform people into fully-developed followers of Christ.

Jesus’ Mother and Brothers

¹⁹ Now Jesus’ mother and brothers came to see him, but they were not able to get near him because of the crowd. ²⁰ Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you.”

²¹ He replied, “My mother and brothers are those who hear God’s word and put it into practice.” **Luke 8:19-21, NIV**

Hearing and believing is not only how Jesus grows his kingdom, but also how he grows his family.

MEMORY VERSE

¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop. **Luke 8:15, NIV**

My next step:

God has given me his Word. I will receive it with humility. Recognize God’s authority, I will make his word my priority and enjoy the growth he gives me over time.

What’s your next step?

Mark it on your connection card.

Group Questions

Jesus used parables. He used truths the people did understand to help them understand spiritual truths they struggled to understand. Why is this such an effective teaching tool?

Look at the threats to the seed that are planted in the soil. Which of the four threats do you think you are most susceptible to? How you can combat the threats?

We are to hoe and weed our life. We are to listen carefully. What are you trying to “grow” in your life? What are one or two choices you can make that cultivate growth?

Why is it especially comforting for Jesus to say that you are part of his family?