

Parable of the seed - Luke 8:5-8, 11-15 (31/08/08)

Pictures you recognise. Jesus hearers would know exactly what he was speaking about!!!!

Let's speak about the ground.

Common ground split into long narrow strips. Between the strips there were the Paths which were the right of way. The wayside!! No chance!!

Rocky ground, we think of ...rocks...but not that. Thin skin of earth over a shelf of limestone rock. Not enough moisture or nourishment!!

Thorns. Now even the laziest of gardeners can make a piece of ground look good. I should know!!!! Ground not cleaned out properly therefore the seeds grew with the weeds.

The good ground. That was well prepared.

The problem verses. (verse 9/10)

"But to others I speak in parables, so that" Luke

"This is why I speak to them in parables" Matthew

They both quote Isaiah which effectively means 'I have spoken to them the word of God and the only result is they haven't understood a word of it.'

Jesus is telling them how it is, but they are just not getting it.

So what Jesus means is this. People are becoming so dull that when

God's truth comes they cannot see it.

It's not God's fault. They have become lazy, blinded by prejudice. Unwilling to see anything that they don't want to see.

Name for this parable! Maybe it should be the parable of the soils, representing those who hear the good news. Are they ready for sowing? Or are there factors in their lives - hardness (shut mind), shallowness (people who never think it out) or preoccupations (where God gets crowded out) which prevent the message from taking root effectively.

So that is the 1st understanding of the parable, that the fate of the word of God depends on the heart into which it is sown.

Maybe there is another meaning. Maybe it's a warning against despair.

Their situation. Jesus is banished from the synagogue. The scribes and the Pharisee's and the religious leaders are up against him. Disciples would be distressed, (Compare it with our situation in the world).

Jesus is saying that every farmer knows that some of the seed will be lost. But that doesn't stop him sowing.

We have our setbacks and discouragements. We have our enemies and our opponents, but never despair. In the end the harvest is sure.

The questions are. What type of ground are we? Are we still a community that's willing to spread the seed of God's word. Knowing there is a harvest to be had.