



Sermon
Rev. Lang Yang

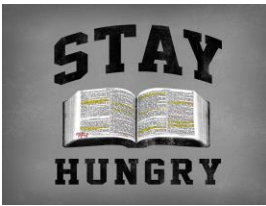
“The Good Seed”

6th Sunday after Pentecost
Our Savior Lutheran Church
7-16-17

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Matthew 13:8 *“Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”* (ESV) ‘This is the word of God’ (Cross Reference – Genesis 26:12, Matthew 13:1, 5-10, 23, Mark 4:8,, 20, Luke 8:8)

Illustration “Hungry for God’s Word” (Show stay hungry)



Are you hungry for the spiritual food? That is the word of God. The Apostle Matthew wrote that they are many people came and listen to Jesus teaching so that they can learn to better their life. Jesus use parable to teach about how a believer should live their life with their faith according to God’s will. The teaching lesson that Jesus did will enable people to see with their eyes and hear with their ears. God’s word is life and Christian should stay hungry so that they can be fill with His word.

I. In our Gospel Lesson today, Jesus spoke about four different kinds of seed. Jesus is teaching the parable of the sower in regard to how human response to receiving the Gospel. The seed represent the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The dirt represent how human response to the Gospel. (Show men scattering seed and fell on path)



packed soil

We want to be the good seed that fallen to the good ground that accept the Gospel in our life so that we can firmly planted in a deep root in order to produce the good grain. In order to have the good seed, Jesus spoke of four different type of soil that the seed fallen in to. **First Seed**, Jesus said, *“A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.”* (Matthew 13:3-4) Jesus explain this first

section by saying, *“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path”* (Matthew 13:19) (Show seed fell on the hard path and people step on)



You see the seed that fell on the path that is similar to the seed that fell on the side of the farm path. When people walk back and forth from and to the farm, the farm worker step on days in and days out. Because of the many worker that walk on these path, the ground became very hard and very tough. Because of the hardness of the ground, the seed was not able have any soil to cover and to grow. It lay out on plain site so when the bird see it they came and eat it.

(Show hardening of the heart)



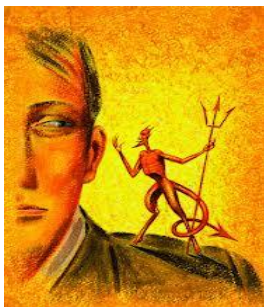
Jesus meant for the first petition of this parable is that people have a harden heart that are not willing to listen to the Scripture. Their heart is hardening that they are not willing to change or allowing God to come into their heart to received the Gospel. When Scripture teaches and direct at their sinful way of life, they refuse to accept,

instead these people still claim that they have no sin. When they hear that the Gospel offer the forgiveness of sins through Jesus Christ, they still refuse to accept. Their heart is hardening because, it is like the seed that fell on the path with the hard ground. (Show Pharisee)



We see similar during Jesus time how the leaders have a hardening heart. The Elders, High Priest, Scribes, and Pharisee will not accept Jesus teaching of repentant for salvation. They already made the decision that Jesus is not the Messiah. Even though they witnesses Jesus miracles, they feel that these miracles are not important to them. This is what the Apostle John write, *“Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” “He has blinded their eyes*

and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” (John 12:37-38, 40) (Show devil snatch away)



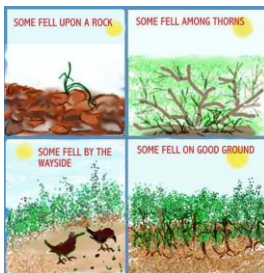
In today society, we see so many people with hardening heart. Many time when I spoke to the Hmong non-christian and telling them about the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they usually response in this way, “I’m not ready to believe, because I still have the elderly (parent or grandparent).” If you carefully evaluate their response, they basicly still have a hardening heart and are not willing to accept the truth and saving grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is why Jesus said in Matthew 13, and it write, *“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.”* (Matthew 13:19) (Show seed fell on rocky ground)

II. The Second Seed:



stony ground

Jesus said, *“Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.”* (Matthew 13:5-6) If you look on any plant or tree, you will know that the roots is firm and deeply rooted to the ground. It draws water from the main wines and it feed to the branches. It will grew and grew and will be firm as it continue its life span. (Show Parable of the sower)



This is similar to our Christian faith. Some Christian when they first come to faith, their faith isn’t strong or firmly planted in Christ. If a child was baptized at infant, but the parent never brought the child to church, how would the child grow in faith? His or her faith will be weak because their roots is not firmly and deeply planted to the ground of believing Jesus. What will happen to our young teenager after their confirmation and they stop coming to church. It is the same as a child, because his or her faith will be weak because their roots is not firmly and deeply planted to the ground of believing Jesus. (Show Sower meaning)

Parable of the Sower Meaning



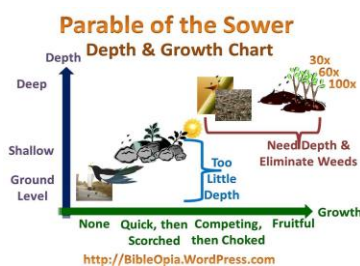
Jesus explain about the seed fell on the rock, and He said, *“As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.”* (Matthew 13:20-21) We also see this in our

new brothers and sisters coming to faith. At first, they are excited and ready to do the Lord's work. But for a little while their excitement began to fade. When others disagree with their faith, soon, their faith began to dindle and began to loose faith. As their faith slowly fade away, their believed and trust in Jesus slowly disappear that they no longer attending church or have anything to do with the Christian faith. (Show seed fell to thorn)



thorny ground

The Third Seed: Jesus said, "Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them." (Matthew 13:7) This is similar to the weed or thorn that grew and choked up the regular crop. In the same way, our stress, our health, our depression, and anything that will hinder our way of life suddenly came upon to choke our life so that we cannot grows our faith in Jesus Christ. Our happiness will be stolen, our time seem like it flew by too fast and within a blink of an eye, our life completely did a 360 degree turn. We lost our sleep due to the worriness of this world. (Show Depth of growth chart)



Our stress will choke our life so much that we no longer have faith. When we let the life of the world to overcome our peace and happiness then we no longer depend on God. Jesus explain the parable this way, Jesus said, "As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful." (Matthew 13:22) How many of you have no stress? (Raise your hand if you have no stress) We have stress in finance, marriage, home, family, health and even stress out for our leaders how they make

decision that will effect our life now and the future. When the stress of the world continue to choked you, do you have someone that you can turn to give you hope? Yes! We have our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ that has already carry all of worries and heavy burden to the cross. So be at peace, don't let the stress of the world choke your way of life. Trust in Jesus. (Show seed fell to good soil)



good soil

The Fourth Seed: Jesus said, "Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear." (Matthew 13:8) The seed that fell to the good soil is the people that hear the Gospel and gladly and joyfully receive it. He understood and gladly serve the Lord Jesus Christ with all his heart, mind, and soul. This is the good seed that Christ want all of us to be. He called us to be His follower and adopted us to be His son and daughters through faith in Him. When you know the truth, the truth has set you free (John 8:32) because you have forgiveness through Jesus. (Show perseverance)

THE NECESSITY OF PERSEVERANCE

❖ Parable of the Soils
▪ Luke 8:11-15

"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."

A Sower Went Out to Sow	
packed soil	stony ground
thorny ground	good soil

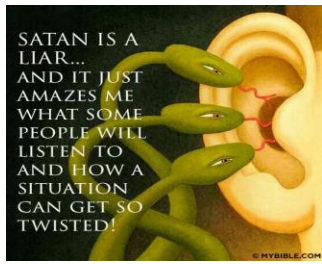
Jesus close the parable by saying, "As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." (Matthew 13:23) The Gospel brought us peace and knowing that we are the good seed that fell on the good soil and produce grain. When God's word live and grow within you, others will see how the fruit will produce, hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold.

Let us watch a video clip in regard to the parable of the sower. Watching this video will help us to recap of what we just went through about the Good Seed. (Show video clip – The parable of the sower)



Mt. 13.3-23 - The Parable of the Sower - YouTube - 6.06 Min.wmv

Many time when we hear God's word, it will cut through our hearts. (Show Satan is a Liar...)



Many times, Satan will come and snatch the Good News away from us so that we can fall to his trap that will condemned us to hell forever and ever. But we can overcome that with our faith and trusting Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior that He is the Good Seed that already planted on the good soil. This is why we see millions of Christian all over the world in every language, tribe, and nations because the Good Seed was sown in Jesus.

(Show tree plant near water)



The prophet Jeremiah write, *“Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.”* (Jeremiah 17:7-8) This is the person that are willing to Learn, Live, and Share Jesus Christ so that he can produce hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold. Which seed will you be? The seed on the path, on rocky grounds, seed on thorns or the good seed on good soil? You are the good seed through Christ Jesus. Amen.

No may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our heart and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen