

August 9 & 11, 2019

WEEK 6 | The Sower

“The Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Jesus in Luke 19:10

God saved you by His grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.

Ephesians 2:8 – 9

“Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone. Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.”

Jesus in Mark 16:15 – 16

One day Jesus told a story to a large crowd that had gathered from many towns to hear Him: “A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!” When He had said this, He called out, “Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand.”

Luke 8:4 – 8

1. Some people reject Jesus because their hearts are hard and need softening.

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God's Word. The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved.”

Jesus in Luke 8:11 – 12

Your ancestors refused to listen to this message. They stubbornly turned away and put their fingers in their ears to keep from hearing. They made their hearts as hard as stone, so they could not hear the instructions or the messages that the Lord of Heaven's Armies had sent them by His Spirit through the earlier prophets. That is why the Lord of Heaven's Armies was so angry with them.

Zechariah 7:11 – 12

What makes people's hearts as hard as stone?

- Upbringing
- Repeated Sin
- Pride
- Pain
- Hypocrisy
- Familiarity

"The hearts of these people are hardened, and their ears cannot hear, and they have closed their eyes—so their eyes cannot see, and their ears cannot hear, and their hearts cannot understand, and they cannot turn to Me and let Me heal them."
Jesus in Matthew 13:15

Today when you hear His voice, don't harden your hearts.

Hebrews 3:7 – 8

2. Some people reject Jesus because their hearts are shallow and need deepening.

"The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don't have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation."
Luke 8:13

At this point many of His disciples turned away and deserted Him. Then Jesus turned to the Twelve and asked, "Are you also going to leave?" Simon Peter replied, "Lord, to whom would we go? You have the words that give eternal life."
John 6:66 – 68

- Jesus uses the Bible to deepen us.
- Jesus uses Christian relationships to deepen us.
- Jesus uses Christian service to deepen us.

"Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many."
Jesus in Matthew 20:28

3. Some people reject Jesus because they're busy and need to refocus.

"The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity."
Jesus in Luke 8:14

Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life.

2 Timothy 4:10

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need.”
Jesus in Matthew 6:33

“The seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God's Word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.”
Jesus in Luke 8:15

4. When the seed falls on receptive hearts, it produces Christian character.

The Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.
Galatians 5:22 – 23

5. When the seed falls on receptive hearts, it produces faith sharing.

There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under Heaven by which we must be saved.
Acts 4:12

Let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.
Galatians 6:9

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