

The Parable of the Sower and the Seed (I wrote)

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He probably got in the boat and floated out a few feet to where the people could still hear Him, but they couldn't crowd in on Him.

Once Jesus had gotten into His boat, He sat down and began to teach the crowd once again.

Now when Jesus had a hard lesson to teach, one that He knew the people would not understand, He would teach them in "parables."

A Parable is an easy story about one thing that will help you to understand a harder story to follow.

Now on this particular day, Jesus wanted to teach the people about the 4 different types of believers.

But, He had a little problem.

He knew that it would be very difficult for the people to understand this story.

Sooo... He decided to tell them an easier story first to help them to understand the more difficult story later.

And that story or Parable is called “The Sower and the seed.”

Now before I tell you the story about the Sower and the seed, I want to explain a couple of things to you about the story.

First, a sower is another name for a farmer. So the story could actually be called “The farmer and the seed.”

Secondly, for those of you who have never planted any thing before. I want to tell you a little about planting.

When a farmer plants his field, first he will till or plow up the ground, this means that he will dig it up and break up all the clumps of dirt.

If there are any big rocks in the field, a farmer will usually throw them out because they would keep the plants from growing like they are supposed to.

He gets the dirt all soft so that when the seeds land on the ground, they will fall into the soft soil and sink down to where they can start to grow roots.

When the roots begin to grow, they need lots and lots of room to spread out.

That is why the farmer throws all of the rocks out. A root cannot grow through a rock.

So when a root hits a rock, it stops growing right there.

The root is a VERY important part of a plant. In fact it is the most important part of a plant. Plants get their water and nutrients through the roots.

But the root has another important part, when the roots are allowed to grow correctly they get really, really long. When the rain comes and the wind blows hard, the plant with long roots holds tightly under the ground.

Now, the farmer only tills up the area of ground that he is going to plant. So all the areas around the planting area will still have weeds and rocks and thorn bushes.

When a farmer goes out to sow a field, he will usually have a container of seed. The farmer sticks his hand into the container and throws the hand full of seed out across the field.

How many of you have ever skipped a stone in a river? This is similar to the way a farmer sows his seed. He gets a handful of seed and

he slings it out across the field. The seed goes skimming across the dirt spreading them all over.

Most of the seed will land in the plowed field. BUT... sometimes a seed will bounce right out of the plowed area and land in the weeds and rocks around the prepared field.

Now that we know a little about planting, let's hear the story about the Sower and the seed.

As I tell this story, try to picture yourself as the farmer who is doing the planting.

Behold, Jesus said, the farmer went out to plant his seed. And as he sowed, some seed fell beside the road, where it was trampled under foot, and the birds came and ate them up.

And some seed fell upon the rocky places, where they did not have much soil; immediately the plant grew tall, but because

of the rocks, there was no room for their roots to grow.

When the sun had risen, the plants were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.

Other seeds fell among the thorns; and the thorns came up and choked them out.

And other seeds fell on the good soil, and yielded crops, some a hundredfold, some sixty and some thirty.

Now, after Jesus had finished telling the story of the Sower and the Seed, the disciples asked Jesus “WHY” He told the stories in Parable form.

Jesus explained to them that although THEY; the disciples had been allowed to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, the people who were listening had not been granted the same benefit.

“Therefore” He said, “I speak to them in parables; because “they do not understand.”

Then Jesus explained what the parable meant.

Now, I want you to listen to the story again and this time, pretend that you are Jesus.

And you are spreading God’s Word to the people. You are telling others about God and what His Word, the Bible says.

The seed in the first story represent the word of God.

God’s Word can be spread throughout the world, but that does not mean that people listen, accept or follow Jesus. In fact, some people NEVER accept Jesus.

***The seed that fell beside the road* in our first story represents all the people who have heard the word of God but they have never applied it to their lives.**

They've heard it, they've read it but they have never accepted Christ.

Soon the devil comes along and He convinces them that they don't need Christ. He convinces them that God's Word, the Bible is not that important. And that God Himself is not relevant. They read God's Word, the Bible as if it were just a story book.

***The seed that fell in the rocky soil* represents those who; when they hear the word, they receive the word with joy. They are so excited, and their hearts are filled with happiness.**

BUT soon that joy, that excitement fades away. Their roots were never firmly planted.

As soon as someone laughs at them or makes fun of their faith they deny everything Jesus stands for.

If things get tough, they give up. When trouble comes they quickly abandon their relationship with Jesus.

They worry more about men, than they do about God.

Their hearts become hard, like the rocky places some of the sower's seed fell.

We have to plant our roots firmly on Christ.

***The seed which fell among the thorns,* represents the people who have heard God's Word, they accept Christ, but they do not make a difference for God's Kingdom.**

They get so carried away with worries and riches and all the pleasures of this life that they are not living their lives for Christ.

When we are believers, we must leave our worries at the feet of our Lord and let Him handle them. This isn't always easy, but it is what God wants us to do.

And we must NOT seek after the treasures of this life but lay up treasures for ourselves in heaven.

This means that we are to spend our time doing the Lord's work and letting Him handle everything else.

***And last of all, there is the seed which fell into the good soil.* These are the people who have heard God's word and accepted Christ.**

They believe, they serve, they leave their worries at God's feet. And they persevere through anything life hands to them.

Their faith may start out small, but it will grow and grow and grow until they have a mature faith in God.

I want to be the seed that fell into the good ground. And I want to make sure that each of you are too.

**This is why I teach. I want people to accept,
love, serve, grow and believe in God's Word.**

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fertile soil of God's Word.**

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Hardened Heart

by Craig

Being able to spin an egg that has been hard-boiled will show the kids how a hardened heart makes it difficult to resist the devil.

Materials:

1 hard-boiled egg
1 uncooked egg
Table or hard flat surface

Duration:

Approximately 2 minutes

**Topics:**

Acceptance, Fearing God,
Obedience

Target Age:

Grades 1 2 3 4 5 6

Preparation:

Before class, hard-boil one egg and let cool. Mark one egg with an "A" and the other with a "B", or whatever marks you choose, so you can tell them apart.

What you will do during class:

You will show the class that the hard-boiled egg is easy to spin around like a top, but the uncooked egg will not spin as often as you try. You will compare the hard-boiled egg to someone with a hardened heart. Just as we can spin the hard-boiled egg, the devil can make someone with a hardened heart do things they know is wrong.

What you will say:

I have here two eggs. Except for the fact that one is marked "A" and this other one is marked "B", they look the same. However, they are very different; let me show you. I need one volunteer. (Give the volunteer the hard-boiled egg.) What I would like you to do is spin this egg around like a top. Can you do that? That was easy, was it not? Now I need another volunteer to spin this other egg. (Give the second volunteer the uncooked egg.) What is wrong, are you having trouble spinning this egg? Some children may know already, in any case let the children experiment with the two eggs for a moment, and then ask to have them back. Explain that the difference between the two eggs is that one is hard inside, while the other is still liquid. We can spin the egg with the hard inside around.

The Bible says, "Blessed is the man who always fears the Lord, but he who hardens his heart falls into trouble" (Proverbs 28:14). This hard-boiled egg is like someone with a hardened heart and who does not fear the Lord. The devil can make this person do things they know are wrong. In a sense, the devil has some control over their life, and that is very scary is it not? Someone who is obedient to the Lord, and does not let his or her heart become hardened can resist the power of the devil. Like this egg with the soft center that we cannot spin around, a Christian who is obedient to the Word of God, and who fears the Lord cannot be controlled by the devil. We must make sure our hearts do not become hard, like a hard-boiled egg.

What you will say:

I have two eggs here

They look the same. However, they are very different; let me show you.

I need one volunteer. (Give the volunteer the hard-boiled egg.)

What I would like you to do is spin this egg around like a top. Can you do that?

That was easy, wasn't it?

Now I need another volunteer to spin this other egg. (Give the second volunteer the uncooked egg.)

What is wrong, are you having trouble spinning this egg?

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Soak It In

by Mike

***Someone with a soft heart will soak up the Word of God.
On the other hand, the Word of God rolls right off someone with a hardened heart.***

Materials:

1 medium size rock
1 bowl to hold rock
Small sponge
Squirt gun filled with water
(a small cup of water may be used)



Topics:

God's Word/Bible, Wisdom

Duration:

Approximately 5 minutes

Target Age:

Grades 1 2 3 4 5

Preparation:

None

What you will do during class:

Compare how the Word of God, represented by the water, will not affect someone with a hardened heart, represented by the rock, but will affect someone with the right heart, represented by the sponge. If you want to add more impact to the lesson, you can cut the sponge into the shape of a heart. Begin the lesson by first placing the rock in the bowl.

What you will say:

Do you see this hard rock? This rock represents the heart of someone with a hard heart. The water in this squirt gun represents the Word of God. (Squirt the rock with the squirt gun several times.) When we try to explain the Word of God to someone with a hard heart, it will not soak in. It just rolls off.

Do you see this sponge? This sponge represents someone with a soft and open heart. (Squirt the sponge with the squirt gun several times.) When we explain the Word of God to a person with a soft and open heart, he or she will soak the information in.

Hear ye therefore the parable
of the sower.

Matthew 13:18

