



Matthew 13:23 (NIV) “But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Gospel of Matthew, Chapter 13 starts with Jesus sitting by a lake. The crowds gathering around Jesus get so large that He decides to get into a boat and teach them from there.

According to Matthew, this is what Jesus says to the crowds from the boat:

“A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

So that is the parable Jesus tells. To grow well, the seed needs good soil.

Then Jesus gives his disciples the hidden meaning of the parable. Jesus tells them that the seed is His Word- Jesus’ message about the kingdom of Heaven, and the ground is the heart of the listener. Some listeners might not even try to hear the Word, and the message will be snatched away, like the bird eating the seed from the path. Another listener might welcome the Word, but only pay attention for a short time, like the seed that falls on the rocky ground. Others will hear the Word but let the worries of life get in their way, like the thorns that choke the seed. But someone who hears the Word and understands it nurtures the seed and it grows and grows in their heart.

During the Church season of Lent, we try to listen especially carefully to the message of Jesus. We spend extra time thinking about the meaning of His life and death on earth. We pray that we will be like the good soil to grow the seed of His Word in our hearts and minds.

