

+WEEKLY REFLECTION

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Parable of the Sower

I love a good story whether captured on film or in a book and I particularly enjoy an autobiography. I like to tell myself that it is because I am endlessly fascinated in people but I suspect that it's because I'm a bit nosey. A good story captures our imagination, captivates our attention, moves our emotion and changes the way we view the world.

Jesus was a master story-teller whose stories did all of these things and they still do. A couple of issues with this parable for the preacher are that it is a familiar story and it is one of the few parables that Jesus explains – does the preacher dare that they can interpret it better than the Son of God! So, instead of a sermon, I will offer some things that we should remember about this parable [perhaps a sermon by the backdoor!]

The first thing to remember is that we are not the primary sower. There is ambiguity in the story about who the sower is but we can assume that it is God, Jesus and then all those who faithfully preach the gospel. So, if God is the primary sower, we can get away from the idea that the ministry of the gospel depends entirely on us and relax in the knowledge that God, in His mercy, invites us into sowing His word. So may we be joyful sowers of His word knowing that it all doesn't depend on our efforts.

Secondly, I think we assume that particular individuals are the different types of soil when, in reality, we have all been the different types of soil at different times. Sometime our hearts are hard and the word can't take root, maybe from bitterness or selfishness. We know that there are times when the cares of the world take over and strangle the word but there are times when the word lands in our hearts and bears much fruit. If that is true for us then it will be true for others. Our duty is to sow the seed, the types of soil it lands with is not in our control. This gives us freedom, like the farmer, to sow generously.

We are servants of the master- sower and in His mercy invites us to share that ministry so may we do that generously with open hands and allow God to grow the seed and pray for more workers of the harvest.

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