

Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

July 12, 2020

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 65:[1-8] 9-13
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



6th Sunday After Pentecost



Hello friends! Here we are in the heat of summer and the best part about that is FRESH VEGGIES!!! Ok, maybe you don't agree with me but...I think that there's something super special about eating a tomato or zucchini that I grew myself. Have you planted anything? What did you have to do to make it grow? One of the most important things you have to do is prepare the soil. If the ground is too hard, or full of rocks and weeds, you probably won't have a very good crop of vegetables.

In today's gospel lesson from Matthew, Jesus tells us a story that is often called The Parable of the Sower. A sower is one who plants seeds. I think it should be called The Parable of the Dirt because that's what it's really about.

In our story, some of the seed that was planted fell on the path where the ground was very hard. The seeds just lay on top of the ground and the birds came and ate the seeds. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground. The seeds sprang up quickly, but when the sun came, the plants dried up because they didn't have good roots. Some of the seeds fell among weeds and the plants grew for a little while, but the weeds took over and choked them out. Fortunately, some of the seeds fell on good soil and the plants grew strong and healthy and produced a good crop.

In Jesus' story, the Word of God is the seed, and we are the soil. Often, when we come to church, we hear the Word, but we aren't really paying attention. Perhaps we are thinking about what we are going to eat for lunch. That is like throwing seed on the top of the ground. It won't ever grow into anything in our life.

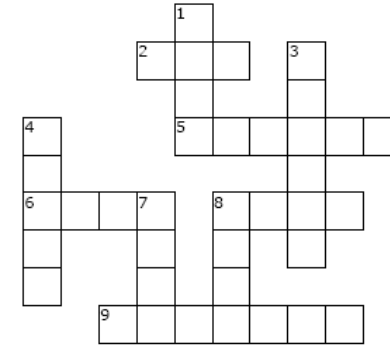
There are other times when we hear the Word and we get excited about it, but then our excitement fades and we drift away. That is like the seeds that fall on the rocky ground. The plants spring up, but then die because the roots are too shallow.

Sometimes we hear the Word and we believe what it says, but we want to keep on doing the same things we have been doing. That is like planting the seed in with a bunch of weeds. I can tell you what will happen, the weeds will soon take over!

When we hear the word, and we listen and try to understand what it says and put it into practice in our daily life, then we are like good soil where the seed takes root and grows and produces a plentiful harvest. That is the kind of soil that Jesus wants us to be. What kind of soil are you?

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your Word. Amen.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. To put seeds in the ground so that plants will grow
5. Small, sharp, pointed growths on the stem of a plant
6. Plants such as grain, vegetables, or fruit grown by farmers
8. A small, usually hard part of a plant from which a new plant can grow
9. Not deep

DOWN

1. The part of a plant which grows down into the earth
3. A person who owns or takes care of a farm
4. Covered with stones
7. A way made by or for people walking on the ground
8. The upper layer of earth that may be dug or plowed and in which plants grow

PATH	CROP	SOIL	THORNS	ROOT
SHALLOW	FARMER	SEED	SOW	ROCKY

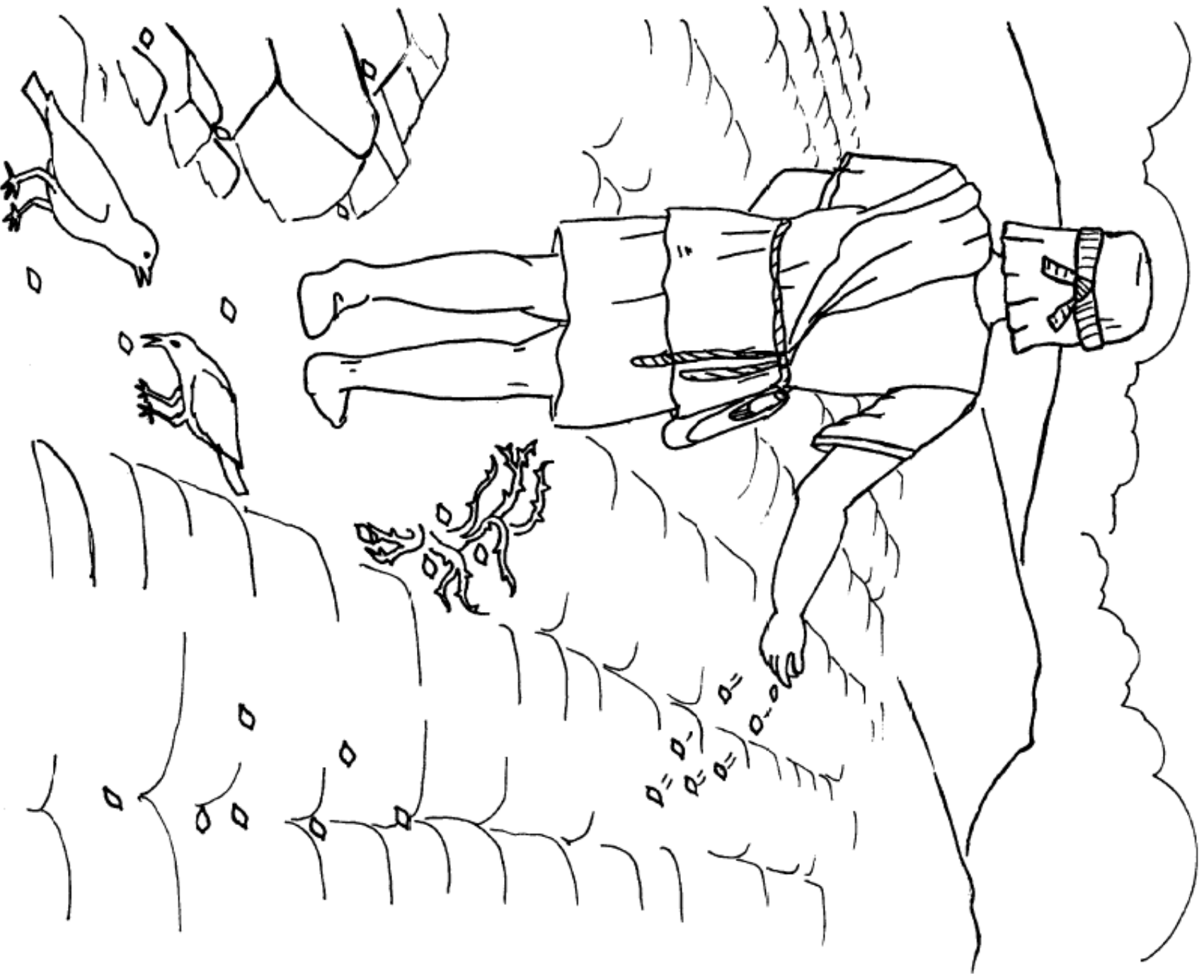
Activity: Put our parable to the test. Take a packet of seeds, scatter them on the concrete, plant some on rocky ground, plant some in the weeds, and then plant some in an area with good, healthy soil. Make sure to water all the seeds and tend to them equally.

Discussion Question: How can you tend the soil of your heart so that God's Word can take root?

Family Table Prayer for July:

Fireworks and hot days
Lazy Summer kind of ways
Family time and memories we share
Thank you, God, for Jesus, who always cares.
Amen

July Memory Verse: Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26



The parable of the Sower

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