

## Trust God to Work

### THE POINT:

**Share Christ in all situations, but leave the results to God.**

As Christians our call, command and commission may be intimidating for some. The point of our lesson today states it succinctly for us. We are to be sharing Christ in **ALL** situations. For some that comes naturally but for these, perhaps the second part of The Point is the problem...then, to **leave the results to God**. They may be "results oriented" and feel compelled to force a decision for Christ in order to feel successful at this. For others though that may be exactly what makes the first portion possible for them...that they are not responsible for the results. It matters not whether it is natural or uncomfortable for us to share Christ or if leaving the results to God is difficult for us. If we are Christians, God has chosen and equipped us to be about this mission. It is our responsibility to share the Good News of Jesus and that alone should be our primary focus. It will become easier the more we are obedient to His call and trust God with the outcome. Jesus says much about this essential work He leaves for us. Today we'll look at an example from Scripture of how we are to sow (share/teach/preach) the seed (Gospel).

"Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "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.” Matthew 13:3-8 NIV

When Jesus spoke in parables it was not to be cryptic but to challenge the listeners to pay attention. He used common culture to teach a principle that was “hiding in plain sight” so those whose hearts were not hardened nor unreceptive could understand clearly exactly what He meant.

Jesus used the illustration of seeds and soil with each type of soil representing people and how they receive the message of truth. The hard soil represents the hard hearted who hear the Word but it won't penetrate because they have no desire for God. The rocky soil represents those who superficially accept Christ but quickly fall away when dismayed. The thorn infested soil represents those who do not let the Word take hold in their lives but let other things steal their focus. We will encounter all kinds of soil (people) as we sow the seed (Gospel). Nonetheless, we are to follow the example of our model sower (Jesus or, in this parable, the farmer) and share Him everywhere with everyone from leaders to despised sinners, one on one and with a crowd when He presents the opportunity. The first three kinds of soil were all inadequate and our seed will sometimes fall on such. BUT, when our faithful sowing falls on good soil it has an astonishing impact...God blesses our work and it produces a bountiful harvest!

“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is

the seed sown along the path. The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 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.""

Matthew 13:18-23 NIV

There is no greater privilege and honor nor anything greater than leading someone to faith in Christ. You can give them all of earth's treasures but none will give them the "abundant life" Jesus offers in the here and now and eternity with Him in Heaven. So...be a sower...sow here, sow there and sow everywhere...sow on the path, sow on rocky ground, sow among the thorns and sow on the good soil. Leave the results to God to produce the fruit (transformation) and a harvest that yields perhaps 100, 60 or 30 times what was sown. To Him be the glory!

Trusting God and Honored to Sow,  
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