



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Dear Christian, My Word Has Made You Grow! July 26, 2020

(Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23) That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.” ¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When 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. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The 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. ²³But 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.”

1. Name two or three parables from Scripture that come to mind. What's your favorite Bible parable? Why?
2. What does it mean to “play” Monday morning quarterback? Why is this so dangerous to do when we second-guess God's ways and works?

3. What's a parable? Why did Jesus teach in parables? (cf. Matthew 13:10-17).
4. Identify: 1) the Sower; 2) the seed; 3) the soil.
5. The gospel is not “irresistible.” Using the parable, explain why some people reject the gospel of Jesus.
6. Agree or disagree and why? Some people come to faith in Jesus because they don't resist Jesus' gospel as much as others do.
7. Agree or disagree and why? Some people are lost because God never planned to take them to heaven.
8. Pastor said that if he were going to send a Savior to rescue sinners, he'd probably send “Rambo.” Explain how God's plan differs and why his plan is “better” (perfect).
9. Describe the blessings that come from knowing that God's ways are not our ways. How will this truth help you face the week ahead?
10. How can you grow in your faith?