

KEY VERSE:

“Let those with ears use them and listen”
Matthew 13:9



THE PARISH OF CHALFONT ST PETER
Encounter God, Encourage Others, Engage our World
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The Parables: The Sower



**CHALFONT
ST. PETER
PARISH CHURCHES**

KNOW WHAT:

- Today we look at part 4 of a series on parables Jesus told. So far we have heard the stories of the Lost Sheep, the Lost Son, the Good Samaritan and the Two Builders. This week we are looking at the parable of the Sower.
- A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly truth.
- Today's parable can be found in Matthew 13.
- It tells us about a farmer who goes out to sow seed. When he casts the seed out some falls on the path and is eaten by birds, some falls on rocks and is scorched by the sun and some falls amongst weeds and is smothered.
- It is only the seed that falls on good ground that ends up growing and when it does it produces up to 100 times what was sown.
- This week is also harvest, a time when we remember God's goodness to us and share what we have with others.

SO WHAT:

- Jesus says that the seed is like the Good News and we are the soil. Good news will only grow in our lives if we prepare ourselves properly.
- Once the Good News grows we can share what we have, both possessions and sharing Jesus.

NOW WHAT:

- Let us say thank you to God for the good things we have and think of how we can share those things.
- Let us think of how we can be good soil ready for the Good News to grow in our lives.

LUKE'S LETTERS:

All sorts of things can 'take root' in our lives. Good and bad, there are things that become part of us, part of what we do and who we are. Sometimes these things are really good and bring us opportunities – like when someone encourages us or we act on advice that we are given. Sometimes these things are catastrophic, maybe we hear something negative about ourselves or something happens at home or in our family, and we cannot shake it off for a long time.

There are good plants that if you plant them will be overrun by weeds or picked at by birds, these need careful attention, constant care and adequate protection. There are some good plants that will out-compete anything that they come across, they simply overwhelm the weeds or are so hardy that come storm or drought they will keep on going. Many of the good things in our lives have qualities of both and one of our most difficult tasks is nurturing where appropriate, pruning when necessary and letting things get on by themselves on occasion.

It would be interesting to see this coming week what kinds of seeds you notice getting sown around you. What is going to be good? What isn't? What will you take time to nurture? What can you leave to its own devices? One of the most vital things that we must keep watching over and caring for is our relationship with God. It might take root and get off to a fast start, but if we aren't careful it can get overrun, pecked away or burnt out. Only when we care for it do we get to see its fruit.