

The Sower - 16 July 2023

Matthew 13. 1-9; 18-23

Read through the first section for today.

Discuss the four types of soil in the parable and their relative qualities for sustaining plant life. Note that Jesus' choice of imagery is so apt and simple that it can still be discussed intelligently by townspeople today!

Disregarding the first type of soil, develop your discussion into human personality types and consider which ones the second, third and fourth soils represent.

Can you think of a one-word description for each of these three types of personality or a single contemporary example of them?

Read through the second section for today.

Although Jesus does not differentiate, in your opinion, which is the more important – the ground which receives the seed, or the seed itself?

Can you express in a single short phrase the brand or content of the “seed” that the sower sows?

Note v.19. The parables of Matthew 13 appear to be a collection called collectively today “The Parables of the Kingdom” – but in the parable of today, what is the “kingdom”?
Some possibilities:

I Corinthians 3.11

Galatians 6.14

Romans 8. 38-39

John 6.40



Vincent van Gogh – Cornfield with Crows

Some Background

Jesus has already turned to cereal husbandry as a source for the imagery of some of his parables.
See Matthew 9.38 (notes, 18th June).

This is the beginning of the third of four discourses given by Jesus during his Galilean ministry (see notes, 25th June). This discourse is characterised by its large number of Parables of the Kingdom.

The first type of “soil” represents people who have never heard of Jesus and his Gospel. The missionary enterprise of the Church is the urge towards such people. What do you know about the missionaries whom our church supports? Do you pray for them?