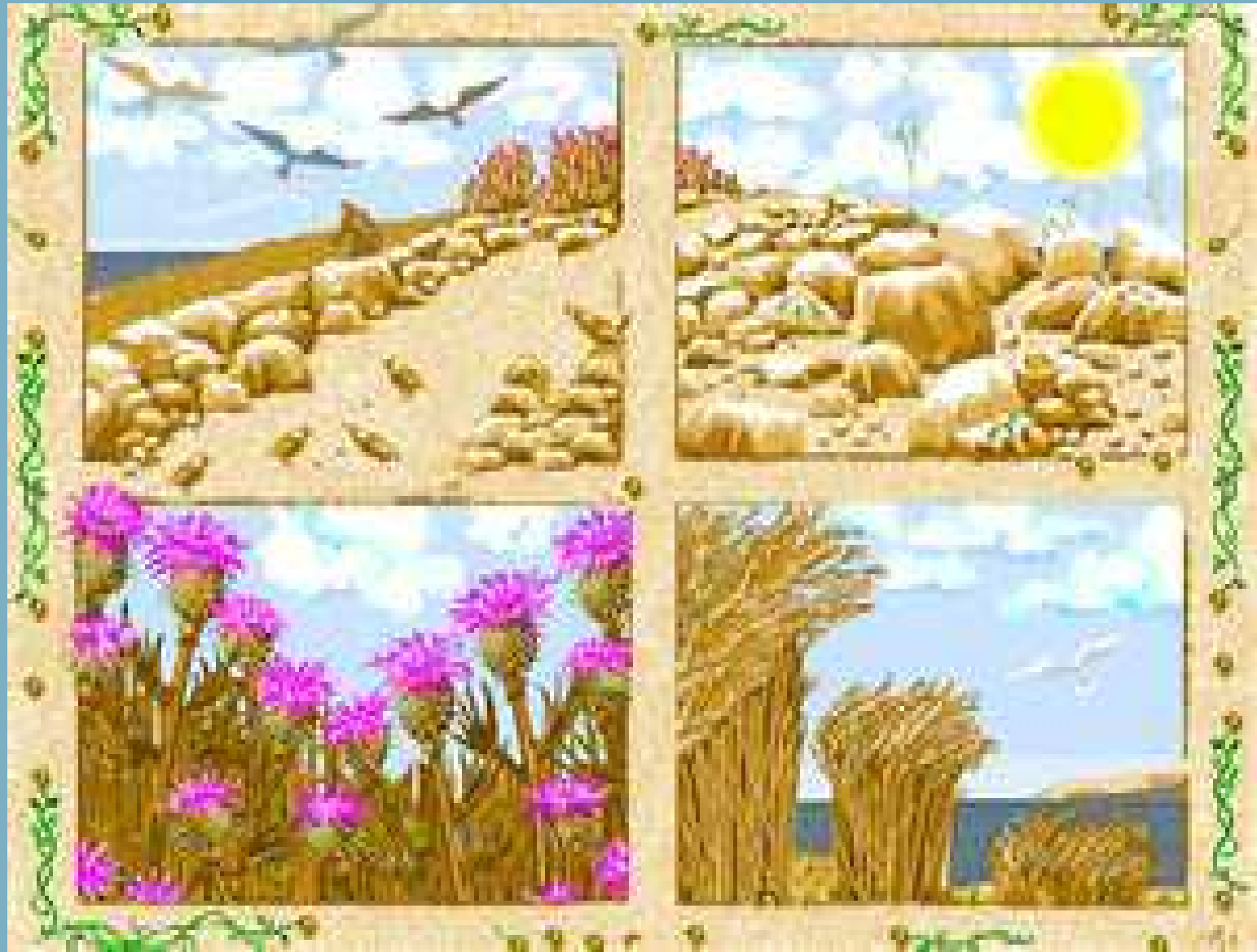




		PATH	ROCKY PLACES	THORNS	GOOD SOIL
THE DETAILS	<p>A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, . . .</p>	<p>Mt./ Mk. some fell along the path, and the <u>birds came and ate it up.</u></p> <p>Lk. It was (also) <u>trampled on.</u></p>	<p>Mt./Mk. Some fell on rocky places... did not have much soil. It <u>sprang up quickly</u>, because the soil was shallow. When the sun came up, the plants were <u>scorched, and withered</u> because they had <u>no root.</u></p> <p>Lk. The plants withered because they had <u>no moisture.</u></p>	<p>Mt.// Lk. Other seed fell among <u>thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.</u></p> <p>Mk. It <u>yielded no grain</u></p>	<p>Mt. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it <u>produced a crop—one hundred, sixty or thirty times</u> what was sown</p> <p>Mk. thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times.</p> <p>Lk. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.</p>
THE MEANING	<p>Sower sows the Word of God.</p>	<p>Mt./ Mk. When anyone <u>hears</u> the message about the Kingdom and <u>does not understand it</u>, the <u>evil one comes</u> and <u>snatches away what was sown in his heart.</u> This is the seed sown along the path.</p> <p>Mk. (Satan)</p> <p>Lk. (Devil)... so that they may <u>not believe and be saved.</u></p>	<p>Mt./ Mk. The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who <u>hears the word and at once receives it with joy.</u> But since he has <u>no root, he lasts only a short time.</u> When <u>trouble or persecution</u> comes because of the word, he <u>quickly falls away.</u></p> <p>Lk. They <u>believe for a while</u>, but in the <u>time of testing they fall away.</u></p>	<p>Mt. The one who received the seed among the thorns is the man who <u>hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful.</u></p> <p>Mk. <u>Desires for other things</u> come in and choke the word, making it unfruitful.</p> <p>.Lk. but as they <u>go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.</u></p>	<p>Mt. But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who <u>hears the word and understands it.</u> He <u>produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times</u> what was sown.</p> <p>Mk. hear the word, <u>accept it.</u></p> <p>Lk. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a <u>noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.</u></p>





- Hard packed pathway
 - Mk. 6: 52 even Disciples, at times
 - Heb 3: 13 hardened by sin
- Birds eat the seed- cf. Jn. 6: 26
- Swine trample the seed Mt. 7: 6
- 1 Cor 2:14 Natural man won't get it

Rocky ground-

–Rocks are passive, inanimate,
need to be removed once each

- Examples in our lives that
require a one-time fix?

–Have we faced persecution?

- Will we? Mt. 24: 9- 10

Thorns- “they go their own way” = Put OUR desires before GOD’s desires

- Maybe evil: Love of \$,addictions
 - Suppress truth by wickedness
- Not always evil- work, social activities, concern

Jesus uses 2 words for choked

- Crowded out, denied 'light'!
 - Drowned- Cf. Pigs in with 'demons' from Legion
-
- What are examples in our lives of things that require ongoing attention or they will distract us, blind us from God?

More on the 'Thorns':

- Leaves, but no fruit= false religion!

- Like Pharisees! Or us?**

- Heb 6: 4- 8 Brethren who fall away are like thorny soil

- Where do Weeds come from?

- Bible describes “Thorny” Brethren:
 - They lost their 1st love (for God)
 - Liars, trying to impress Brethren
 - Unspiritual deeds deny their faith
 - Their good reputation is false!
 - Wrong view of own spiritual lives
- Master says “I never knew you”

- Good Soil:
 - “Hear” [hard soil didn’t listen]
 - “Understand” [rocky ground didn’t really understand]
 - “Yield fruit, with patience” [thorny ground gave no fruit]
- Mt 7: 16 by their fruit you shall know them
- US- the Birds, Rocks or Thorns

- Good plants yield more grain for:
 - Food- Feed my sheep Jn 21: 17
 - Replanting- Preach the word Mk 16: 15- 16
- Seed is The Word Jn. 12: 24- 25

What makes the 'seed' grow?

- Natural seed- Mk 4: 28- 29 we know not how
- Spiritual Seed
 - 1 Cor 3: 6 God gave increase
 - Jn 15: 5- 6 Abide and bear fruit
 - 2 Cor 12: 8 Strong in weakness

- Why tell this parable of the Sower? (some suggestions)
 - Ask self ‘Which soil am I’?
 - Can I change to good soil?
 - What is choking me?
 - Can I still seek God?
 - God Prunes us Jn. 15: 2b

- Should I decide who is 'good soil' & only preach to them?
- Don't be discouraged- Jesus didn't convert all... Keep trying !
- Ecclesias may have 3-4 of these 'soils'. How do we handle that?
 - Stay sensitive to others

- Story of Galbraith's garden
- How to be a better sower::
 - Prepare ourselves
 - Go to them
 - “broadcast” the seed
 - Prepare the soil (hearers)
 - Let the Seed do its work

- **Jesus asks: Do you understand this parable?** (If not) how will you understand all of them?
 - Lots more to come OR
 - This is the easiest one? OR
 - This one is the 'Foundation' parable for all others
- *** All parables aimed at 1 of 4 soils

How do other parables connect to Sower? Some for each type Soil!

- **Hard packed soil-** Defeat sin & death without Christ? Lk14:28-33

- **Rocky soil-** 2 Pet 2: 20 fell away
Lk11: 24- 26 not converted Not fruitful by his power

- Thorny soil- Lk 18:9- 14 Which is 'justified', Pharisee or Tax man?
- Good soil- On to perfection Lk 10: 30- 37
 - We can all grow. God & Jesus still PRUNE us!
- **The SOWER is the foundation for understanding all Parables**