

# Acts of Jesus: Sowing Seeds or Sewing Seeds?

1. Children are like wet cement. Whatever falls on them makes an impression.
2. Almost every child would learn to write sooner if allowed to do his homework on wet cement.

Perhaps the most important ministry of this church or any church is children's ministry. Our annual VBS begins tomorrow night!

Are you going to sow seeds or sew seeds or both?

**Matthew 13:1-23** <sup>1</sup>The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. <sup>2</sup>And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. [A natural amphitheater.] <sup>3</sup>And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, [a usually short story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle] Behold, a sower went forth to sow; <sup>4</sup>And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: <sup>5</sup>Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: <sup>6</sup>And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: <sup>8</sup>But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. <sup>9</sup>Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. <sup>10</sup>And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? <sup>11</sup>He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. <sup>12</sup>For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. <sup>13</sup>Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

<sup>14</sup>And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: <sup>15</sup>For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them. <sup>16</sup>But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear. <sup>17</sup>For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them.

<sup>18</sup>Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. <sup>19</sup>When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth *it* not, then cometh the wicked *one*, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is **he which received seed by the way side**. <sup>20</sup>But he that **received the seed into stony places**, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; <sup>21</sup>Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. <sup>22</sup>He also that **received seed among the thorns** is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. <sup>23</sup>But **he that received seed into the good ground** is he that heareth the word, and understandeth *it*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an **hundredfold**, some **sixty**, some **thirty**.

We are seed sowers during VBS. Some of the kids are on the way side and will not receive the witness.

Some kids are stony ground and are excited during the week and perhaps a week or two afterwards then lose that joy when reality sets in.

Some kids are in the midst of thorns. However, the grass eventually looks greener on the other side of the fence and the deceitfulness of riches choke the witness.

Some kids are good ground. They hear the Word, they receive the Word, they respond to the Word and are blessed eternally.

Each of us are sowers. Some of us will see a hundredfold return, some sixty, some thirty. It doesn't matter what return we receive on our investment the important point is to invest time, love, and the Word into these kids.

### ***Parable of the Wheat and Tares***

**Matthew 13:24-30** <sup>24</sup>Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, **The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:** <sup>25</sup>But while men slept, **his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat**, and went his way. <sup>26</sup>But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. <sup>27</sup>So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? <sup>28</sup>He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? <sup>29</sup>But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. **[Some tares look and sound Christian.]** <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

### ***The explanation***

**Matthew 36-43** <sup>36</sup>Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field. <sup>37</sup>He answered and said unto them, **He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;** <sup>38</sup>**The field**

is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;<sup>39</sup> The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.<sup>40</sup> As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.<sup>41</sup> The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;<sup>42</sup> And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.<sup>43</sup> Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

I said many times, God gives us examples by which to live. Jesus is a sower, so we should be sowers.

Jesus sows good seed so we should sow good seed.

God will reap the harvest, so we should reap the harvest and disciple the children of the good seed.

### ***Sowing vs. Sewing***

We know what it means to sow. But what happens when you sew? When you sew, you put something together or string something together.

Once we have sown good seed and reaped the harvest, we should sew the good harvest together to build community through discipleship. It's not enough just to have a week of VBS, we need a lifetime of fertilizing, watering, pruning, and sending forth to the next generation.

Nineteenth century Scottish preacher Horatius Bonar asked 253 Christian friends at what ages they were converted. Here's what he discovered:

Under 20 years of age - 138  
Between 20 and 30 - 85  
Between 30 and 40 - 22  
Between 40 and 50 - 4  
Between 50 and 60 - 3  
Between 60 and 70 - 1  
Over 70 - 0