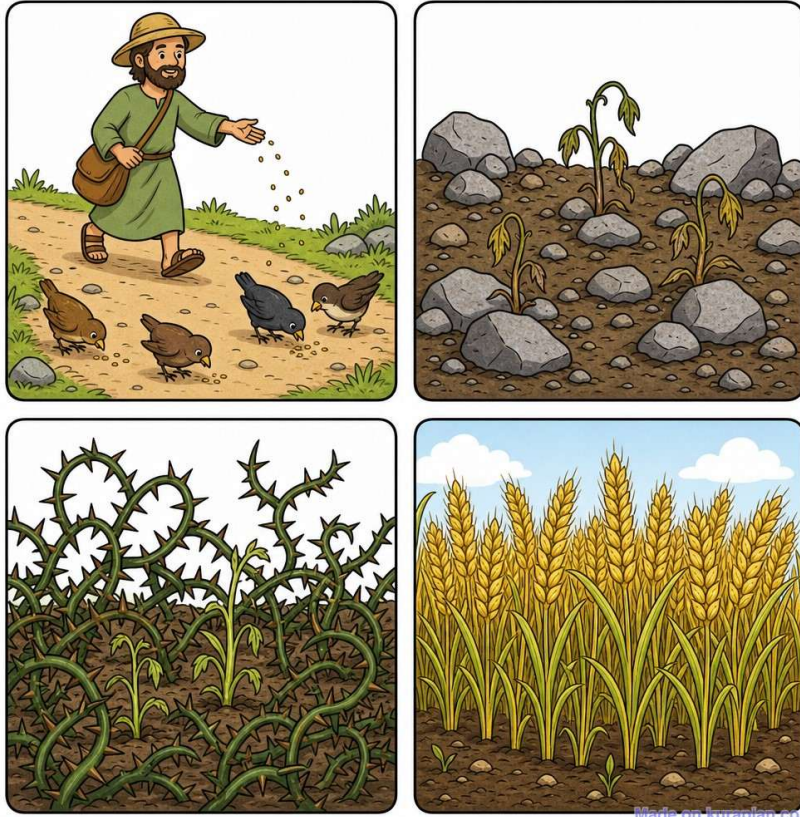


# Bringing it Home For Sunday, July 12, 2026

By Allison de Kanel



In today's Bible story, Jesus talked about all the ways someone can spread seed, and how many ways the seed can fail to grow into a crop.

This was a parable. That's a fancy church term for stories Jesus told to teach people about God's Kingdom and love. In this story, the seed was his message. He was describing how people received the Good News. Or often, didn't receive it.

I bet if he wanted to tell this parable today, he'd use different examples.

Like this.

A grown-up was demonstrating how to make a bed. But one kid was playing a game on their phone, and another was building with legos, and another was paying attention but didn't understand and didn't want to look stupid, so didn't ask any questions. Then there was one who paid attention and took notes, but lost the notes.

These are all ways we can be told and shown how to do something, but not be able to do it.

If we want to follow Jesus, we have to pay attention to him, and follow his example, and ask

questions when we don't understand. Sometimes we get something wrong and have to start over, like putting the blanket on the bed before the sheet. That's okay. Jesus is patient and kind. He sent the Holy Spirit and gave us each other, to help us learn.

Let's pray. Dear Jesus, thank you for telling stories to help us learn. Amen.

Today's Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."