

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Gospel Reflection

The word *parable* means *riddle*. A person needs to figure out the meaning of a parable and then apply it to one's life. Jesus has 40 parables in Scripture. Only two of them are explained to us. We have to wrestle with the meaning of the others.

The parable of the sower is one of the two parables that are explained in Scripture. This explanation helps us to understand the parable. The parable's explanation set the groundwork for us to understand how Jesus presented the riddle so we can figure out what he meant with the other parables.

There are multiple ways we may consider this parable. The biblical scholar J. Dominic Crossan emphasizes that it is not so much the size of the harvest that counts. He says that the true miracle is that the harvest happens at all. The harvest, no matter how big or how small, has a miraculous quality to it. It's a gift that reminds us of the bounty of the kingdom of God.

God has created each of us with seeds that are meant to flourish. They need the proper soil, however, or they will not fully become what God intends. The quality of the land is essential. If the bird eats the seed, there is no hope of growth. We'll wither on rocky ground. We will choke on thorny ground. We cannot yield the harvest without proper conditions.

Let's continue tilling the soil, planting seeds, and gathering the harvest together at St. James.

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