

EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

FARMER

EXPLORING NEXT SUNDAY'S THEME

Reflecting on the Gospel

Parable of the sower (Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23)

In chapter 13 Matthew presents his third block of Jesus' teaching. This is the chapter of parables. The chapter begins with the well known parable of the sower, followed by the explanation given for the benefit of the disciples. The main point of this teaching is to emphasise that those who wish to understand the Kingdom of God must begin by understanding how things work in the natural world which God created.

Our image to stimulate reflection on this passage is *farmers*.

Extracts from the Gospel passage (Matthew 13: 3-8)

Jesus said, '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.'

Gospel prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have sown the word of life in our hearts.
Give us grace to nurture the seed,
that we may be fruitful in your service;
today and every day.
Amen.

ENGAGING WITH THE THEME AT HOME

Reflecting and meditating

Reflect on Jesus' teaching reported in Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23:

- what details in the passage catch your attention?
- what big ideas does the passage spark in your mind?
- what most touches your heart in the passage?
- what most stretches your mind and makes you think in the passage?

Thinking and talking

- how do you understand the seed that fell on the path?
- how do you understand the seed that fell on rocky ground?
- how do you understand the seed that fell among thorns?
- how do you understand the seed that fell on good soil?
- what does this narrative say for us today?

Using your Bible

This parable of the sower was taken by Matthew from Mark's Gospel. It was also taken from Mark's Gospel by Luke. See just how much all three Gospels have in common, and note the differences.

- Mark 4: 1-9, 13-20
- Luke 8: 4-10, 11-15

Explore passages in the Old Testament that draw on images of natural growth:

- Psalm 65: 9-14
- Isaiah 55: 10-11

Exploring online

- explore interpretations of the parable of the sower
- explore the Godly Play parable of the sower video
- explore classic images of the sower in art

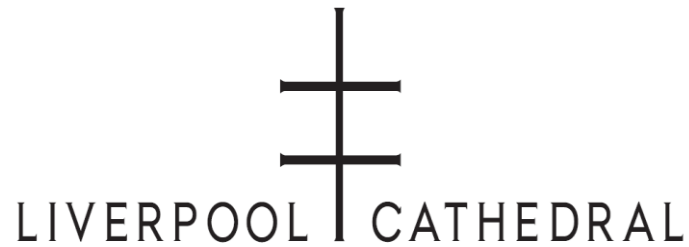
Drawing on experience

- reflect on your experience of planting seeds or growing plants
- reflect on your experience of observing gardeners at work
- reflect on your experience of learning from the natural world

PROPER 10 (YEAR A) SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

Creating and making

- plant some cress seeds and observe their growth
- make a collage showing the four kinds of soil in the parable
- make a display from seed catalogues of different kinds of seeds
- create a reflection, poem or prayer on the theme of the sower



EXPLORING THE SUNDAY GOSPEL AT HOME

Each week we are inviting people in their homes to look forward to those Sunday services that follow the Revised Common Lectionary Gospel readings. We employ the SIFT approach (Sensing, Intuition, Feeling, and Thinking) to encourage reflection on the Sunday Gospel. We are suggesting a variety of ways in which people of all ages, and households working together, may engage with the Gospel reading and celebrate that engagement with shared activities.

Our invitation then is for you to share your reflections, prayers and photos of your creative work with the Cathedral by emailing them to Nelson.Pike@liverpoolcathedral.org.uk

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