

The Plan - preaching evangelism (the how and the what)

After this, Jesus travelled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God.

The Team - special women

The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others.

The Supporters – who pays the bills?

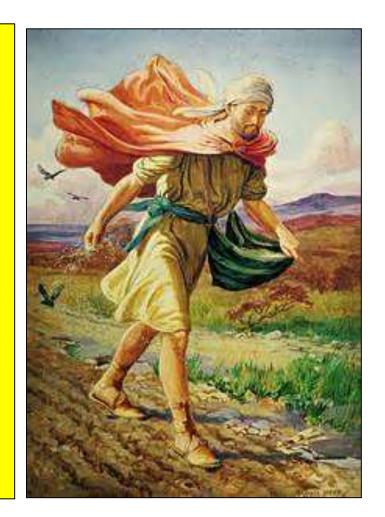
These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

A Parable of the sower

A story from everyday life - the power of narrative

While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable:

"A (THE) farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown."



Windows or walls?

When he said this, he called out, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

His disciples asked him what this parable meant.



He said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, "'though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand."

Matthew 13:10 - 17 Psalm 78:2 - 4

This is the meaning of the parable:

The seed is the word of God.





Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.





Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away.





The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature.







But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.





An Illustration

No one lights a lamp and hides it in a clay jar or puts it under a bed. Instead, they put it on a stand, so that those who come in can see the light. For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.

Explain this parable!



and a WARNING

Therefore consider carefully how you listen. Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what they think they have will be taken from them.

