

## Devotion for August 2, 2017

In Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed, he compares evangelism to broadcast seeding of a field. Some of the seed gets eaten by birds, some of the seed lands in poor soil and dies out, some of the seed gets choked out by weeds, but the rest of the seed lands in good soil and produces a crop.

Jesus compares those seed and soil combinations to people. Many people who hear God's Word are like one of the three bad soils – but some are like the good soil, and faith grows in their hearts and lives.

When you and I evangelize (share the good news of Jesus) we don't know what kind of soil we're working with, but that doesn't matter because we've got an unlimited supply of seed (the Word of God.) We don't need to help God conserve seed, he wants us to spread it, everywhere we can.

It's disappointing when you plant seeds and nothing grows, or it seems like only a tiny little bit is growing. Success in evangelism is not up to us – it is God and only God who creates faith. God's task for all Christians is not to convert a certain number of people (impossible), but to be faithful in sharing his Word (planting the seed) and trusting that God will work through it to accomplish his purposes.

And when you feel like maybe God's Word doesn't work because you're looking at all the people who don't seem to be effected by it, look at all the people you know who have been, including yourself. By the power and grace of God, you heard the Word, and believed it, and now you trust in Jesus as the Savior from all your sins and the way to eternal life in heaven. What God did for you, he can do for others. (See the whole parable in Matthew 13.)