

July 12th -19th, 2020

Reflection for the Week

Matthew 13: 1-23

On Sunday we heard Jesus' teaching on the Kingdom of God using the illustration of a sower.

'A sower went out to sow. Some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil... and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.'

I don't know any farmers but I do know people who are keen on gardening, and they might well question the sowing methods employed in this story. How careless and irresponsible! Perhaps the point being made here is that like the indiscriminate sower, the love of God is so extravagant that it defies any pre-conceived ideas of what we might think is reasonable.

How might this picture of the sower apply to us? It might mean that in imitation of God's foolish love we too must love foolishly; loving the difficult and unresponsive as much as those who are capable of loving us in return.

When Jesus spoke this parable to the crowds he was in a boat moored off the shore of Lake Galilee. As we contemplate returning to worship in the church building, it is salient to remember that Jesus was not constrained to the synagogue or the Temple. Jesus moved among the people and taught in the places where they gathered. Surely there is something in Jesus' strategy to bear in mind as we gather together again. With the use of *Zoom* we have certainly been able to reach places and people that were previously excluded.