Grace and peace from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

It was common for Jesus to go out on the boat and sit and teach. People follow Jesus in great numbers after he called the disciples. The Hebrew word for disciple is *talmid* which means student. He had taught his disciples and crowds of people during occasions such as the Sermon on the Mount, His message of hope resonating those who felt helpless -the crowds had become large. They had crushed in on him Jesus being in a boat literally gave him some breathing room. When he sat people knew he was going to start teaching and their function was to come closer to listen and learn because that is what Rabbis did at that time - it was equivalent to a Pastor stepping into a pulpit. So, here he teaches not in field he talks about planting not in a field but while he is sitting on a boat in the water and listeners are on the beach.

Jesus then begins to teach in parables. Why does Jesus teach in parables? Parable literally means “to throw alongside” and underlines both their comparative and revealing function. They are intended to show something about God’s kingdom by engaging the imagination and challenging conventional perspectives. Jesus tells them their function in the passage that is sandwiched between todays two narratives that the disciples had been given so they learn and understand the mystery that God’s kingdom is manifested in Jesus but the crowds do not understand.

The parables usually draw from everyday peasant life but yet an unexpected twist can underline the surprising along with the counterculture nature of God’s reign. God’s kingdom is at work now! Ultimately God’s sovereignty will be asserted even over Rome. For followers of Jesus the parables and their explanation can confirm our commitment to and broaden our knowledge of God’s kingdom. The parable of the sower demonstrates the rejection of God’s kingdom is not the responsibility of nether Jesus od God but this rejection derives from our human nature of sinfulness or it is the activity of the devil. (Lawn)

The first seed sown falls along the path and quickly disappears into the beaks of birds This seed group represents people who hear but fail to understand the message of God’s kingdom—indeed, “the evil one” removes what had been sown from their hearts.

The second seed lands in rocky ground, where there is little dirt, and swiftly sprouts, but wither under the scorching sun because nourishing roots are lacking. This depicts persons who are receptive to the message and even delight in it, yet their initial enthusiasm does not survive the experience of adversity and persecution.

The third seed finds its way to a patch of thorns, which prevent growth to maturity. The thorns represent experiences that hinder persevering faithfulness: anxious concerns and acquisitive greed of the kind Jesus has cautioned against in the Sermon on the Mount. All is not lost, though!

(Arizona)

Then the fourth seed, benefits from its location in favorable soil, bears fruit, with yields of stunning proportion, as much as a hundredfold, an abundant harvest.

Here we focus on the sower and think God doing the sowing. But then we see many people will not be receptive to the good news and will do the opposite or will not be faithful to the world. We are talking about humans and their sinful nature after all. As we clearly see many will not be receptive to the message we are called to speak, and some will not persist in faithful practice. Yet this parable reassures Jesus’ disciples and ourselves—that if we persevere, even against the odds, what we do matters. What we say and how we embody the gospel in practice will make a difference in the world. What we do will bear fruit, whether in individual lives or in our faith communities or in the wider society.

We can focus on the soil. We can till it, weed it, fertilize it and water it and with the Holy Spirit be welcome and inviting to offer people what they do not have in their lives as we become the good soil. If we do not love someone who gathers with us, who will? We can develop and become the good soil as we cultivate the soil from which faith may spring, to invite, encourage, and sustain the faithfulness.

(Midland Noon Club)