

The Sower, the Seed and the Ground



In the Parable of the Sower, the seed pertains to the word of God, and the different types of ground upon which the seed falls pertains to the different ways of how people react to it. Here are some everyday situations of how the lesson of the Parable of the Sower can be applied:

Seed is sown on the path at times when we feel apathetic (not caring about what's going on in the world), lazy (not willing to make the effort) or when we have simply made ourselves too busy to take the time to pay attention to things that are not on our immediate to-do list. We become closed-minded to messages that we hear; rather than spend a little time to comprehend the message, we disregard it right away. For a lot of nonsensical things that are put out on the internet, that could be a good way to avoid distractions, but what if in doing so, we have ignored a message that could have increased our wisdom or have had a positive change in our lives? When we rush through our prayers and scriptural reflection, or when we do not devote our full attention to them, our hearts are like the path on which good seed had been sown – we hadn't given the good seed a chance to grow and take root, much less to bear fruit.

Hardness of heart also leads to good seed sown on the path. In the Gospels, Jesus pointed out the hardness of heart of the scribes and the Pharisees: Looking around at them with anger and grieved at their hardness of heart, Jesus said to the man with the withered hand, "Stretch out your hand." The man stretched it out and his hand was restored. For the scribes and the Pharisees, curing on the Sabbath is prohibited. They would rather obey the letter of the Law rather than do good and save a life on the Sabbath. (cf. Mark 3:1-5) The virtues to counteract the seed sown on the path would be empathy, diligence and zeal. We can pray to God to give us these graces, especially at times when we need them the most.

Seed is sown on rocky ground when the things that we see and hear catch our interest and excites us; but the problem with the rocky ground is that the seed cannot take root properly because the rocks and stones that are in the ground become obstacles for the good seed to take root and grow. The Parable of the Sower describes these obstacles as tribulation and persecution; when these arise, people fall away quickly. However, there are other types of obstacles which can prevent the word of God from taking root and growing within us. One quite common yet overlooked obstacle is the guilt of past sins. Guilt makes a person see God as a strict judge who is waiting to punish you for every mistake, instead of a merciful and loving Father, like the father in the parable of the prodigal son. God wants every person to come closer to Him and have a deeper relationship with Him, rather than keep them away at a distance. The virtue to counteract the seed sown on rocky ground would be perseverance, self-compassion and the grace to know and understand God.

Seed is sown on thorny ground when we allow distractions to prevent ourselves from producing the best outcomes from what the word of God has given us. These distractions come in many forms, and the Parable of the Sower uses worldly anxiety and the lure of riches as examples. Other common examples are excessive worrying over finances and stress. People who go to confession immediately after they commit a sin but never take the time nor effort to change their lives around is like having good seed fall

耶穌聖名華人天主堂

THE HOLY NAME of Jesus CHINESE CATHOLIC MISSION

5395 Light Circle NW, Norcross GA 30071 678-691-3261 hnojatl.org

每周公告 Weekly Bulletin

2026年七月十二日 July 12, 2026

on thorny ground; they fail to produce the best outcome out of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The virtue to counteract the seed sown on thorny ground is temperance. Temperance is the virtue of self-control. It acts like a gatekeeper for our minds. When distractions pull our attention, temperance stops us from acting impulsively. It helps us to stay focused on our goals.

Seed is sown on good soil when we hear and accept the word of God, we reflect on it and we diligently incorporate it into our lives by trying to live it out; that is the virtue of fruitfulness – it is the ideal ground for the good seed to take root, develop and produce good fruit. The fruitfulness comes in the form of changes in the way we live and act, as well as the way we can make an impact on others in a good way.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today, we still need volunteers to help move some tables and chairs from the first floor to the second floor of the Education Building. We will try to do a little each week. The more people who can help, the easier it will be for all. Thank you!

The Archdiocese of Atlanta has launched its “Rooted in Christ – Growing in Faith” campaign to raise funds for the programs and activities of the Archdiocese. Each parish and mission church in the Archdiocese is expected to participate with their individual goals. The Archdiocese has designated our parish goal of \$60,000, and has scheduled our parish to begin with a preparation period from January to March 2027 and actual campaign period from April to September 30, 2027.

Did you know that you can make donations to the church directly from your retirement account? Each time you make a distribution from your retirement account, it is counted as taxable income. However, if you make a donation (up to \$108,000), to qualified charities through QCD (Qualified Charitable Distributions), these donations, although not tax-deductible, are excluded from taxable income. Many older retired donors use this strategy to lower their taxable income, but it also satisfies Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) without increasing their adjusted gross income (AGI). Consult your financial advisor or contact your retirement account specialist.

Prayer List: Jasmine Ho, Michael Tan, Bian Meiyi, Chen Shupeng, Chen Jianxin, Liang Chenjing and Xu Taicheng.

Mass Schedule	Confessions	Bible Study
Sundays 10:30 AM (Chinese)	By Appointment	Wednesdays 10:00 AM (Chinese)
Sundays 2:00 PM (English)		
	Anointing of the Sick	Eucharistic Adoration
Mondays 12:00 PM (English)	First Sundays after 10:30 AM Mass	Sundays 9:00 to 10:00 AM
Tuesdays 12:00 PM (English)	First Fridays after 6:30 PM Mass	
Wednesdays 12:00 PM (Chinese)		
Fridays 12:00 PM (English)		
First Friday 6:30 PM (English)		