



Church at Home for Abridge

12th July 2020

Matthew 13: 1-9

Further resources for worship and reflection

Before van Gogh (who painted the picture above) became an artist, he trained as a Christian minister and worked as an evangelist among a mining community in a province of south-west Belgium called Hainault! He wanted to spread the Word of God as the sower does in our Gospel. In fact, he painted several well-loved versions of this scene.

St Paul writes in Romans:

How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!' (verses 14-15)

It is because someone 'sowed the word' into our lives that we are followers of Jesus today. Reflect on:

Who was it who told you about Jesus? Was it one person or many people, maybe over many years?

Did you embrace that story straight away or did it take time to put down roots?

Has your heart perhaps resembled different soils (as in the parable) at different times over your lifetime?

What helped it bear fruit in the end?

To whom have you passed on the story? Has anyone responded?

How might we go on sowing Gospel seeds in Abridge today?

[Listen to this sung version of the parable](#) as you think through what this parable means for you.

Good ground by Malcolm Guite

I love your simple story of the sower,
With all its close attention to the soil,
Its movement from the knowledge to the
knower,
Its take on the tenacity of toil.

I feel the fall of seed a sower scatters,
So equally available to all,
Your story takes me straight to all that matters,
Yet understands the reasons why I fall.

Oh, deepen me where I am thin and shallow,
Uproot in me the thistle and the thorn,
Keep far from me that swiftly snatching shadow,
That seizes on your seed to mock and scorn.

O break me open, Jesus, set me free,
Then find and keep your own good ground in me.



Hold some seed in the palm of the hand.

This seed is special. It contains life waiting to break out. It is precious and valuable. It is a gift from God.

Hold some seed between finger and thumb.

This seed is small. It seems too tiny to be anything important or significant. Yet it contains a surprise waiting to happen. It is a lesson from God.

Hold some seed hidden in the closed fist of one hand.

This seed is hidden. It remains out of sight so it can grow in secret. The miracle of the seed can only happen as it dies in the depth of the earth. It is a sign from God.

Place some seed in front of you and consider what this seed will become one day.

May we grow up to become all that God plans and hopes for us to be.