

Bible reading Matthew 13:1-9

Hymn 100- Singing-The Faith- *All Things Bright and Beautiful*

The Parable of the Sower

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

New International Version (NIV)

Reflection

Each time I read Jesus’ parables they take me back to creation when God created the world. When I look at nature itself it preaches the gospel. I was moved by David East’s reflection on nature which he preached on Sunday 21 June. He spoke about the beauty of nature, saying human life depends on things like food, soil, fuel, water, air to breathe, parks and gardens the trees raise people’s spirits keeping the environment cooler and cleaner. It all preaches the goodness of God to us. It is through the taste of a nectarine that I should preach the goodness of God. As Christians and preachers, we are expected to deduct the gospel from creation both the visible and the invisible. When Jesus came to this world he used nature to preach, teach and heal. His parables included nature to talk about the visible and invisible things of heaven. That is why his disciples and those listening to him sometimes struggled to understand what Jesus meant. In John 9:6 Jesus used mud to make a blind man see. Even before the new Testament the prophets in the Old Testament used nature to heal. In 2 Kings 5: 13 Elisha ordered Naaman to go and wash himself seven times in the Jordan and his flesh would be restored and cleansed. Even though Naaman was not pleased but when he washed himself as instructed he was healed and restored. Sometimes when we get home

quenching for a cup of tea, water and leaves of a plant will do the magic. After a long drive or flight some people can't wait to get home and soak in a hot bath, that's water! Nature preaches the gospel of Christ and in it we should be able to understand the invisible things that is why Paul in Romans 1:16-21 teaches about the creation of things that can be seen and unseen. Jesus is using nature to talk about spiritual farming. As much as Jesus is using familiar things that we see every day but he is talking about the spiritual truth. The parable is saying Jesus is the sower of the seed which is the word of God. Jesus is saying if you harden your hearts and resist the gospel you are going to be found unproductive by God. God will see us as people who are not fruitful and, judgment may befall us. We should strive to do work for the heavenly inheritance for the things of this earth will pass and we will leave them behind when we pass from this earth. Therefore, God's interest is in our obedience of the His word and repentance. As we listened to the parable which seed are we? Are we the seed which fell on hard rock, the seed which fell on thorny bushes or the seed that fell on good soil? If we are the seed that fell on good soil let us be productive. Let us stand up for Jesus and lift up the royal banner and show the world how it's done. Our actions should preach the seed that we are. Let us wear Jesus so that the desires of the flesh will not

overwhelm us. May God bless us all now and always.
AMEN! 🙏🙏🙏

Prayer

Thank you for your abounding love that will not let me go. You continue to provide for me so that I may continue to bear fruit, that will last. I pray that I may recognise my purpose in this life and the creation that you want me to be. We have been reminded that Jesus is the sower and your word is the seed and my heart is the field. May your word find a good place in my life, manifest and produce fruit. May you continue to fill my heart with peace, joy, love and hope so that I may face tomorrow with courage. Help me Lord as I sometimes wander in unfamiliar zones, hold my hand and guide me back to where you want me to be. I pray all this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen 🙏🙏

*Prepared by **Rev Mary Sachikonye Methodist Minister for (Mile Cross, Costessey, Trinity Thorpe Marriott, Hosford and Drayton) for a time as this. We are a church without walls. We should therefore, continue to proclaim the good news. I will be sending **Words of Hope** every week so that we may continue to nourish our spirits and continue to live in HOPE!***