

Seasons

Even though it is early September, the majority of summer and early fall crops have long been harvested. The land has been tilled to prepare it either to receive nutrients as it is prepared to be planted again, or to lay fallow for a season.

Where are you in the season of harvest? Are you ripe and ready to bear fruitful seeds? Are you being fertilized and prepared for planting? Or are you in a season of rest and rejuvenation?

Jesus talked about plants and farming quite a bit in his ministry. He spoke to many people who understood the natural progression of the harvest.

Many of us today see what we want in the store and purchase it not knowing if it is in or out of season. There are times when we become frustrated because the cost of produce is significantly higher than we want to pay, all because it is not in season. You can buy it, but it probably won't taste as good.

God has the perfect season for everything. Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us of this: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." When we try to make our own time tables, things often go awry.

In Matthew 13 there is a well-known parable of the Sower. It's especially helpful that Jesus himself explains it. We don't have to guess at the explanation which is always nice. Matthew 13:1-8, *That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A Sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."*

The explanation in Matthew 13:18-23, ¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." If you were the seeds which kind of ground, did you fall on?

Reflect on your faith journey with Christ. Who did God use, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to fertilize and prepare the groundwork of your faith? How did God water it over the years? How has God used your faith to impact those around you? Are you bearing fruit in Jesus' name by sharing your love of Jesus with the community around you?

A beautiful thing about the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, is the emphasis on service in Jesus' name. Women gathering together to use their gifts, talents, and treasure to further God's kingdom here on earth.

Praise God for His use of these individuals who collectively have impacted millions in Jesus' name!

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), Copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Written by Kayla Winkler
Published by LWML Texas District Christian Life Committee, 2022
lwmltxdist.org