

# The Kingdom of Heaven

**Scripture:** Matthew 13:23 (New Living Translation)

<sup>23</sup> The seed that fell on good soil (*good dirt*) represents those who truly hear and understand God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!"

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus told a story about a man who went out and planted some seeds. Some of the seed fell on the path where the ground was very hard. The seeds just lay on top of the ground and the birds came and ate the seeds. Some of the seed fell on rocky ground. The seeds sprang up quickly, but when the sun came, the plants dried up because they didn't have good roots. Some of the seeds fell among weeds and plants grew for a little while, but the weeds took over and choked them out. Fortunately, some of the seed fell on good dirt and the plants grew strong and healthy and produced a good crop.

In Jesus' story, the Word of God is the seed, and we are the dirt. Often, when we come to church, the preacher is preaching the Bible, but we aren't really paying attention. Perhaps we are thinking about what we are going to do that afternoon or about what we did yesterday. We are hearing the Bible, but we are not listening. That is like throwing seed on the top of the ground. It won't ever grow into anything in our life.

There are other times when we hear the Bible and we get excited about it, but then our excitement fades and we forget about it. That is like the seeds that fall on the rocky ground. The plants spring up, but then die because the roots are too shallow.

Sometimes we hear the Word and we believe what it says, but we want to keep on doing the same things we have been doing. That is like planting the seed in with a bunch of weeds. I can tell you what will happen, the weeds will soon take over!

When we hear the Bible, and we listen and try to understand what it says and put it and do it, then we are like good dirt. We are like dirt where the seed takes root and grows up to have lots of fruit. That is the kind of dirt that Jesus wants us to be. What kind of dirt are you?

**Prayer:** Dear Jesus, we want to be like the good dirt. Help us to listen to God's Word and put it into practice in our daily life. Amen.

**Song:** "Read Your Bible, Pray Every Day"

(Excerpt adapted from sermons4kids)