

JESUS WAS A GREAT STORYTELLER: He was a master at relating to people, causing them to *think* and consider life-long change by using **objects** and **illustrations** that **JUST MADE SENSE!**

Matthew 13:1-3 (NLT) ¹ Later that same day Jesus left the house and sat beside the lake. ² A large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat there and taught as the people stood on the shore. ³ He told many stories in the form of parables...

The Story of the Farmer, the Seed and the Soil:

Luke 8:5-15 (NLT) ⁵ “A farmer went out to plant his seed. As he scattered it across his field, some seed fell on a footpath, where it was stepped on, and the birds ate it. ⁶ Other seed fell among rocks. It began to grow, but the plant soon wilted and died for lack of moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on fertile soil. This seed grew and produced a crop that was a hundred times as much as had been planted!”

¹¹ This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is God’s word. ¹² The seeds that fell on the footpath represent those who hear the message, only to have the devil come and take it away from their hearts and prevent them from believing and being saved. ¹³ The seeds on the rocky soil represent those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But since they don’t have deep roots, they believe for a while, then they fall away when they face temptation. ¹⁴ The seeds that fell among the thorns represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity. ¹⁵ And the seeds that fell on the good soil represent honest, good-hearted people who hear God’s word, cling to it, and patiently produce a huge harvest.

Pathway:

Rocky:

Thorny:

Fertile:

Many Followed Jesus:

- Some wanted to be tickled INTELLECTUALLY
- Some wanted to be tickled EMOTIONALLY
- Jesus wanted to people to be CHANGED PRACTICALLY