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The Diocese of North Queensland  
Ministry Development Officer  
PO Box 1244  
Townsville QLD 4810

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## The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost 16 July, 2023

### Matthew 13:23

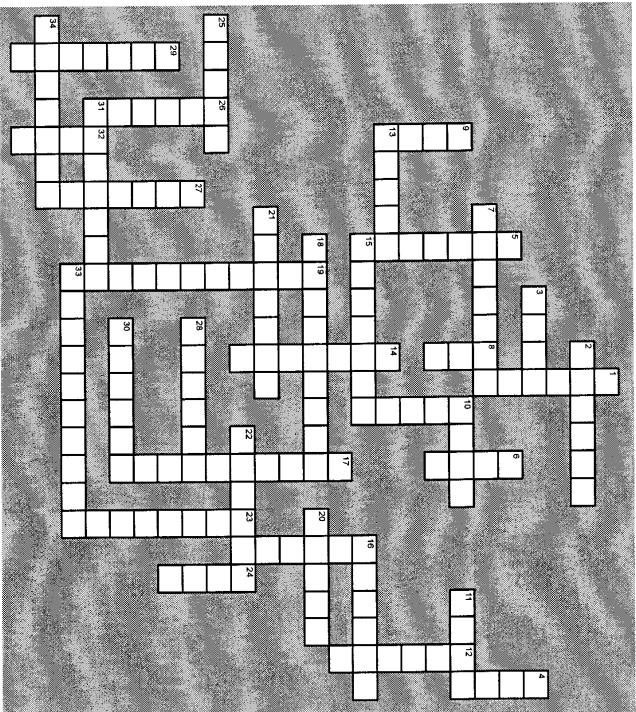
The seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

Heavenly Father, we want to be like the good soil. Help us to study your Word and put it into practice in our daily life. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen**

# Crossword:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (CEV)

Listen CAREFULLY to the Reading and fill in the blank spaces at right. Afterwards you will be able to complete the crossword puzzle below.



10 down) That same day Jesus left the \_\_\_\_\_ and went out  
 15 across) beside Lake \_\_\_\_\_, where he sat down to teach.  
 22 across) Such large \_\_\_\_\_ gathered around him that he  
 6 down) had to sit in a \_\_\_\_\_, while the people stood on  
 26 down) the shore. Then he \_\_\_\_\_ them many things by  
 21 across) using \_\_\_\_\_. He said: A farmer went out to  
 16 across) scatter seed in a field. While the \_\_\_\_\_ was  
 33 across) \_\_\_\_\_ the seed, some of it fell along  
 13 across) the road and was \_\_\_\_\_ by birds. Other seeds  
 20 across) fell on thin, \_\_\_\_\_ ground and quickly started  
 24 down) growing because the \_\_\_\_\_ wasn't very deep. But  
 8 down) when the \_\_\_\_\_ came up, the plants were scorched  
 7 across) and dried up, \_\_\_\_\_ they did not have enough  
 25 across) \_\_\_\_\_. Some other seeds fell where thornbushes  
 12 down) grew up and \_\_\_\_\_ the plants. But a few seeds  
 30 across) did fall on good \_\_\_\_\_ where the plants produced  
 29 down) a \_\_\_\_\_ or sixty or thirty times as much as was  
 18 across) scattered. If you have ears, pay \_\_\_\_\_!  
 5 down) Now listen to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the story about the  
 32 down) farmer: The seeds that fell along the \_\_\_\_\_ are  
 34 across) the people who hear the \_\_\_\_\_ about the kingdom,  
 17 down) but don't \_\_\_\_\_ it. Then the evil one comes  
 2 across) and snatches the message from their \_\_\_\_\_. The  
 1 down) seeds that fell on rocky ground are the \_\_\_\_\_ who  
 28 across) gladly hear the message and \_\_\_\_\_ it right away.  
 3 across) But they don't have \_\_\_\_\_ roots, and they don't last  
 9 down) very long. As soon as \_\_\_\_\_ gets hard or the message  
 31 across) gets them in \_\_\_\_\_, they give up. The seeds that  
 19 down) fell among the \_\_\_\_\_ are also people who hear  
 23 down) the message. But they start \_\_\_\_\_ about the  
 16 down) needs of this life and are \_\_\_\_\_ by the desire to  
 11 across) get \_\_\_\_\_. So the message gets choked out, and they  
 27 down) never \_\_\_\_\_ anything. The seeds that fell on good  
 10 across) ground are the people who \_\_\_\_\_ and understand the  
 4 down) message. They produce as \_\_\_\_\_ as a hundred or  
 14 down) sixty or thirty times what was \_\_\_\_\_.



"Jesus told the parable of a sower who went out to sow his seed."

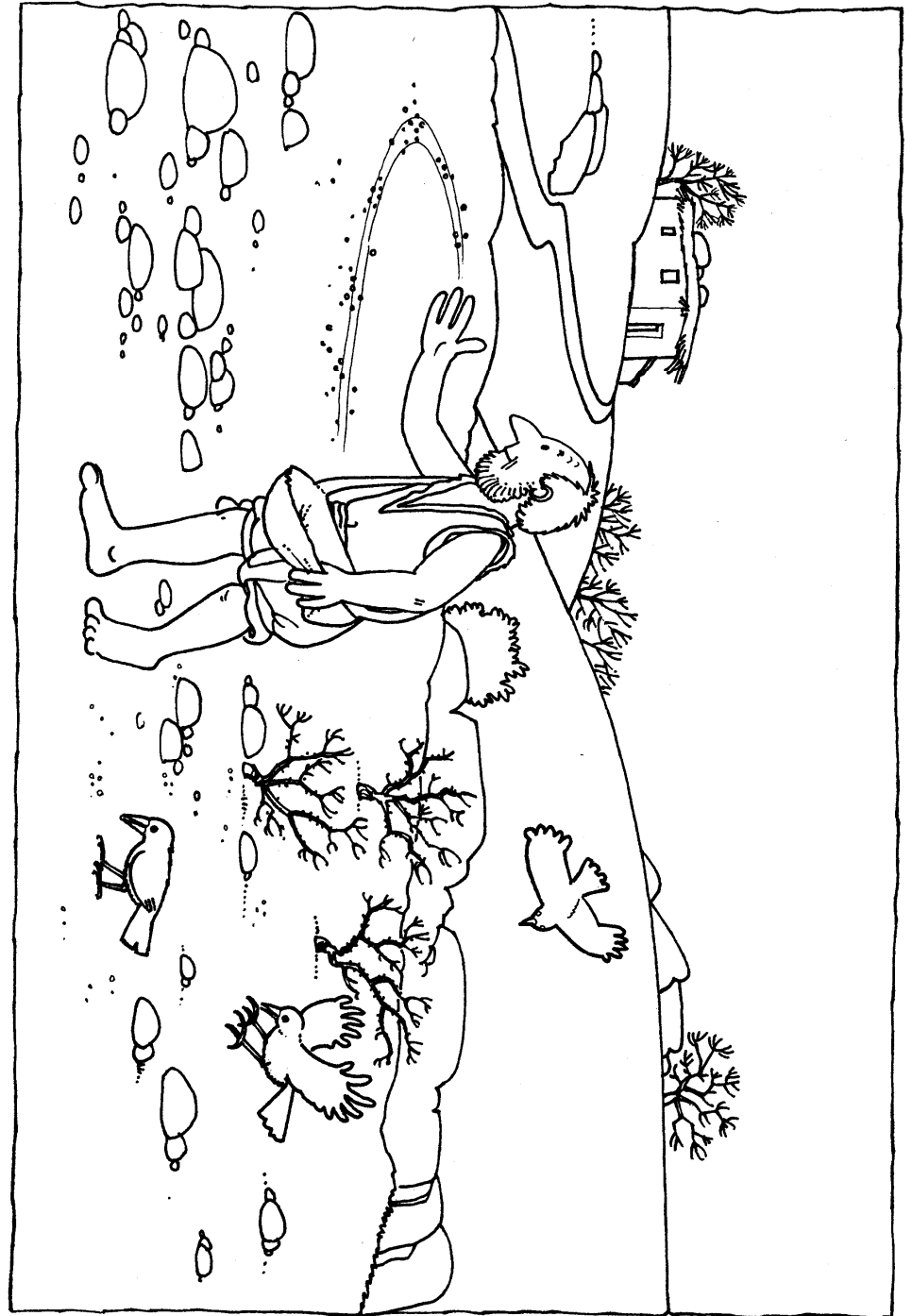


# Word Search: *Matthew 13:1-9,18-23 (CEV)*

S	M	V	Z	A	T	R	R	M	T	Q	A	X	A	A	B	L	C	J	Y	Z	E	P	C	D
T	P	D	S	E	Z	H	E	G	V	V	R	P	L	A	N	T	E	D	I	L	O	M	Q	U
L	J	V	B	C	T	S	R	N	E	P	D	Q	R	A	E	H	I	J	K	V	Q	U	S	G
M	H	S	L	O	S	C	K	I	S	E	H	S	U	B	N	R	O	H	T	B	I	C	O	I
K	I	A	U	A	B	F	O	R	D	E	K	J	N	R	D	X	G	T	E	R	T	H	I	C
R	E	F	G	N	B	U	T	E	D	R	F	L	M	U	A	Y	W	X	U	D	B	X	S	H
Q	L	E	U	H	K	L	A	T	W	W	Y	I	N	K	Z	O	V	T	R	O	U	B	L	E
D	D	R	E	H	X	F	O	T	L	U	N	D	L	E	R	H	M	F	S	I	C	B	B	O
E	H	E	B	Q	A	U	B	A	N	G	E	S	G	R	Q	F	K	A	J	Z	Q	E	P	W
K	U	V	E	R	I	J	J	C	R	R	O	M	Y	I	E	G	Y	K	C	R	R	T	S	Y
O	D	B	M	L	W	E	I	S	S	C	E	I	D	C	K	D	T	S	T	O	E	Q	T	Q
H	S	E	C	W	I	M	B	T	N	A	N	F	U	J	E	B	A	R	C	J	E	J	R	H
C	R	C	Q	Z	S	L	A	N	N	G	Q	D	H	E	R	C	V	K	K	Y	K	S	A	W
Q	Z	E	D	D	R	N	A	I	S	M	O	X	P	C	S	I	Y	J	X	B	U	S	E	S
X	Q	W	K	P	D	Q	N	G	N	R	F	O	O	L	E	D	R	S	V	W	B	A	H	O
X	L	S	X	P	W	G	H	Z	P	P	W	V	R	N	E	E	P	D	V	S	H	T	C	I
U	E	T	C	Y	F	O	X	H	T	H	G	U	A	T	O	G	D	W	I	T	P	T	J	L
L	A	O	Y	F	U	P	R	Y	H	J	L	P	E	O	P	L	E	O	P	O	J	E	Y	P
W	T	R	N	S	P	B	M	Q	V	R	A	A	B	R	C	A	R	R	E	O	H	N	Y	K
T	E	I	E	H	I	L	H	K	K	I	O	C	G	A	X	O	D	C	H	R	C	T	N	R
A	N	E	A	G	R	O	U	N	D	Q	T	C	D	U	L	N	N	X	U	L	I	I	M	M
D	M	S	D	R	T	B	E	C	A	U	S	E	A	F	G	T	U	I	E	L	R	O	G	P
F	L	C	A	P	C	U	P	N	L	Y	T	P	U	E	L	P	H	A	Q	Y	G	N	Z	O
E	T	Z	O	Z	S	D	E	N	H	D	T	T	C	Y	N	P	U	R	E	F	W	E	H	S
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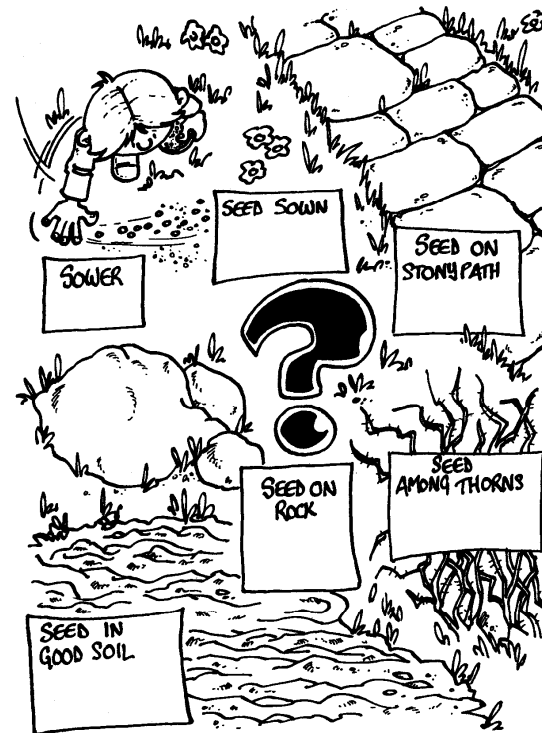
- |             |            |         |            |
|-------------|------------|---------|------------|
| HOUSE       | GALILEE    | CROWDS  | BOAT       |
| TAUGHT      | STORIES    | FARMER  | SCATTERING |
| EATEN       | ROCKY      | SOIL    | SUN        |
| BECAUSE     | ROOTS      | CHOKED  | GROUND     |
| HUNDRED     | ATTENTION  | MEANING | ROAD       |
| MESSAGE     | UNDERSTAND | HEARTS  | PEOPLE     |
| ACCEPT      | DEEP       | LIFE    | TROUBLE    |
| THORNBUSHES | WORRYING   | FOOLED  | RICH       |
| PRODUCE     | HEAR       | MUCH    | PLANTED    |

Puzzle by Dorothy A. DeBisschop, [dottie@our-oxford.info](mailto:dottie@our-oxford.info)  
 Prepared for FREE Distribution through [www.homiliesbyemail.com](http://www.homiliesbyemail.com)





Jesus said,  
*"When a farmer sows seed in good soil, he grows a good crop.  
 When I give my message about God to people who are ready to  
 hear it, they understand and grow closer to God."*



## A SOWER SOWED THE SEED

I THINK I AM SOMETIMES ONE KIND OF GROUND, SOMETIMES ANOTHER. THERE ARE TIMES I LISTEN AND TIMES I DON'T.

I reckon that's true for all of us. But we only have to be receptive earth. The growing is God's business.

YOU MEAN THERE'S NO POINT IN TRYING TO GROW?

There's no point in trying on our own. All we have to do is let God into our lives, and he'll do the rest within us.

CAN ANYONE END UP WITH A BIG CROP, THEN?

Yes. No qualifications needed, apart from being human and open to God.

## ...AND WHAT ABOUT US?

WHAT KIND OF THINGS STOP US HEARING THE GOSPEL PROPERLY?

STONY PATH →

ROCKY GROUND →

AMONG THORNS →



WHAT KIND OF THINGS MAKE FOR GOOD, WELL-PREPARED EARTH WHERE THE SEED CAN GROW?

WHAT OUR CHURCH COULD DO

WHAT OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY COULD DO

TRUE AND LIVING GOD,  
 YOU ALONE HAVE  
 THE WORD OF LIFE  
 THAT I NEED.  
 ALL I AM INTERESTED IN  
 IS THE REAL TRUTH -  
 AND THAT'S YOU.