

## **A Farmer Was Sowing Seed**

Mark 4:1-20

by Don Falkos

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One day a large crowd gathered around Jesus on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He stepped into a boat, sat down, and told a story:

A farmer was sowing seed. Some of the seed fell on the hard-packed soil of the path. Birds came and ate it up. Some of the seed fell on thin, rocky soil. It started to grow, but its roots had difficulty finding water, so it withered in the scorching heat of the sun and died. Some of the seed fell among thorns that grew so quickly they kept the seed from producing any crop at all. But some of the seed fell on good soil. It grew and produced a crop that was thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times more than what was sown.

Later, Jesus' disciples asked him what the story meant. He answered:

The farmer sows the Word of God. Some people are like the hard-packed soil of the path. These are people who hear the word of God but for whatever reason are not able to accept it. Some people are like the thin, rocky soil. They hear the word of God and at first are very excited. They believe for a while. But when persecution comes because of their faith, they quickly fall away – their faith dies. The seed falling among thorns is like people who hear the word of God and want to believe but who are overwhelmed by the worries and the riches and the pleasures of life. Their faith never grows. But some people are like the good soil. These people hear the word of God and believe and their faith grows and grows and grows.