

THE SUNDAY PAPER

Year A
PROPER 10
TRACK 2

One of the ways Jesus used to teach people about God was to tell them stories. We call Jesus's stories PARABLES. A "parable" is a story that has more than one meaning. Jesus's parables are about ordinary things like farming and fishing. But they are also about God's Kingdom. They tell how it is coming, and how it grows, in the hearts of people who love God!

THE SEEDS OF THE KINGDOM

Matthew 13:1-9

JESUS WAS TALKING TO A CROWD ON A BEACH. HE SAT IN A BOAT SO EVERYBODY COULD SEE AND HEAR HIM!



SOME FELL ON THE PATH, WHERE THE GROUND WAS PACKED HARD—AND THE BIRDS CAME AND ATE THEM UP!

SOME LANDED ON ROCKS, WHERE THEIR ROOTS COULDN'T GROW!

SOME FELL AMONG THORNY WEEDS, AND WERE CROWDED OUT!

BUT SOME FELL ON GOOD, DEEP, SOFT SOIL, AND...

... (MATTHEW 13:8)!

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Many people in Jesus's time thought that God's Kingdom would come all at once, all of a sudden, and then everybody would begin to love and obey God. But Jesus said God's Kingdom is like seeds. Even though many people would hear about it, only some of them would let it grow in their hearts. But if they did, the Kingdom would grow and grow and grow!

PSALM 65:III

"Lord, you smooth the ground, and water it and soften it, and make it grow"

ISAIAH 55:10-III

God says, "My Word goes out from me like rain, and makes my Kingdom grow"

ROMANS 8:III

"God's Spirit is in us, making us grow to new life in both body and spirit"

