

MESSY CHURCH TAKE HOME SHEET FOR GROWN UPS! OCTOBER 2016

We have been thinking about the story Jesus told about the sower and the seeds, or the soils. You can find this story in Mark's gospel chapter 4, verses 1-9. An explanation of the parable is given at verses 14-20.

We call this the parable of the sower, but the story is more about the soils than about either the sower or the seed.



There are four kinds of soil: The path – which would be beaten earth in Jesus' day, not asphalt. However, beaten earth is very hard, and as the seeds lay on the surface of the soil they were eaten by birds.



The rocky ground: a few seeds might fall between the stones and make some sort of roots, but the hot Middle Eastern sun would soon scorch plants with such shallow roots.



The thorns: It might not be obvious that thorns were going to grow in this bit of soil, but if their roots were present, waiting for the rains, then they would soon choke any good plants trying to grow.



The good soil; where roots could go deep and so growth could spring up strong and tall.

THE QUESTION JESUS WANTS HIS HEARERS TO ASK THEMSELVES IS "WHAT KIND OF SOIL AM I?"

Is the soil of your life beaten hard, so that nothing can get in and hurt you, but you cannot grow? Is it rocky, where new ideas are short lived enthusiasms but no more? Is it thorny, where cares and concerns choke any real life and growth? Or is it clear, good soil, waiting to receive God's word, to give it room and allow it to grow in you, changing you from bare earth to a field of plenty?.