**Key Passages**

**Bible Drill Devotions**

***Green Cycle***

**6. THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER Mark 4:1-20**

**Key Verse/s** *Mark 4:8 But a few seeds did fall on good ground where the plants grew and produced 30 or 60 or even 100 times as much as was scattered. (Contemporary English Version)*

**Why Is This Key Passage Important?** This passage teaches us that we should witness but not get disappointed if the results we want do not happen. It also gives us something to compare our lives to. Are we thorn choked ground, or can we work toward being fertile ground which bears much fruit?

**Lesson** What is a parable? **A parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning!**

What is the heavenly meaning of this story? Is the Parable of the Sower about planting seeds? No, it is about witnessing, and it is also about one’s own spiritual growth.

Jesus tells the parable in verses 1-8 and explains it in verses 13-20. One does not have to wonder what this parable is about, Jesus tells us.

Do you get discouraged that most of the people you tell about JESUS seem to be uninterested or drop away soon after they start to follow Him? JESUS CALLS US TO BE HIS WITNESSES, BUT THAT IS NOT A CALL TO CONVERT OTHERS. CONVERSION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. WE SHOULD NOT MEASURE OUR SUCCESS AS A WITNESS BY THE NUMBER WHO RESPOND. IF THAT WERE THE CASE, JESUS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL. MANY WHO HEARD HIM, AND SOME WHO EVEN FOLLOWED HIM FOR A WHILE, TURNED OUT TO BE UNINTERESTED. Jesus kept telling the GOOD NEWS even though it often did not seem to make a difference.

One thing “farmers/witnesses” cannot do is change the soil. All we can do is plant good seed and work the soil – live a life of day-to-day faith in front of and alongside the person to whom we witness.

The story is told of an evangelist, who, while traveling on an airplane, sat across from a man who was noisily drunk. After watching the man carry on for a while a pastor friend of the evangelist said sarcastically to the evangelist, “I understand he is one of your converts!” The evangelist replied, “Must be. If he were God’s convert he wouldn’t be acting that way.”

Will you witness to hard packed soil? To shallow soil? To thorn covered soil? Or good soil that reproduces fruit?

There is an old hymn that has been sung in churches for almost 100 years.

It is “Let Others See Jesus in You.”

While passing thro' this world of sin, and others your life shall view,

Be clean and pure without, within; Let others see Jesus in you.  
 Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you.  
 Keep telling the story, be faithful and true; Let others see Jesus in you.

Your life's a book before their eyes, They're reading it thro' and thro'  
Say, does it point them to the skies, Do others see Jesus in you?  
 Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you.  
 Keep telling the story, be faithful and true; Let others see Jesus in you.

What joy it will be at the set of the sun, in mansions beyond the blue,

To find some souls that you have won; let others see Jesus in you.

Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you.  
 Keep telling the story, be faithful and true; Let others see Jesus in you.

Then live for Christ both day and night, Be faithful, be brave and true,  
 and lead the lost to life and Christ. Let others see Jesus in you.

Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you.  
 Keep telling the story, be faithful and true; Let others see Jesus in you.

The other way to look at this parable is to consider the kind of soil you are.

Are you hard packed soil and when you hear the GOOD NEWS you make no change in your life?

Are you shallow soil and decide that being a church member is a good idea; but you are shallow and you act a little better; but you don’t repent and change your way of living your life?

Are you like the seed that fell in the thorn bushes? You want to become rich and have the luxuries of life. The message of salvation gets choked out, and you do not witness, thus bear any fruit.

Hopefully you are like the seed that fell in good soil. You hear the message, you welcome the message, you repent (turnaround from what you have been doing), you tell others about how Jesus can save them, and you bear much fruit (people hear the message that you tell and they are saved).