

## 12th July 2020 – Pentecost +6 – Hugh's Sermon

In The Name of Our Creator, The Son Our Saviour And Redeemer,  
And The Triune Spirit Who Is With Us Always.

Jesus uses an agricultural metaphor as the vehicle for his story. It is the image of a sower going out to sow seeds. Jesus begins the story purely in those terms, talking about where the seed falls and what happens to it, and what the results are. And then later in the chapter, Jesus explains the story in terms of Spiritual realities it conveys. Jesus provides four examples of what can happen when the seed is sown. And three of those four examples are negative. That's why it can be discouraging for you and I when we are involved in sowing of the seed. We do not see the results we would like to see after the seed is sown. There's nothing wrong with the seed, the problem is in what happens once the seed has been sown?.

Let us look at the examples that Jesus given us, [A sower went out to sow, and as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and birds came and devoured them] And Jesus then provides the interpretation: [When anyone hears the word of the One True God and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in their mind. This is what was sown along the path, look the sowing of the seed just does not happen. There are forces at work that would hinder the seed from taking root and producing good grain. What do you think that would stop the grain from growing,? of course the evil one. The evil one, the purpose is to interfere in God's Spirit in this world, and the life of Jesus in word and action. that's what happens when people come in contact with the Spirit of the evil one and causes unbelief. The hard ground has not been broken or ploughed up, so that the seed just sits on top of the ground, along comes the evil one so no rain. So God's relationship with his people has no growth. So people do not see the need for a relationship with the One True God. Jesus continues [Other seeds fell on rocky ground] and immediately the seeds grew, because there was no depth of soil in the ground, and when the sun came up they dried, what is Jesus telling you and I ?, for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the person who hears God's Spirit and builds a relationship receives it with joy yet still has doubt, so has no root. But when difficulty arises unbelief takes over the Spirit. You and I have seen this happen many times to people in our Christian life. You and I today have to be very strong in our relationship with God, when we are Serving God's people, today we are needed more than ever, to show our faith in the One True God. Jesus again tells in Matthews Gospel , {other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them]this I believe is about people who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the influence of the evil one choke the understanding of the Spirit of God, so there is no harvest. But what about the thorns?, what is Jesus talking about?. The cares of the world and the deceitfulness of the world's riches, it is these events that can choke out our relationship with The Triune Spirit, yes there times in our life when we get caught up in what is going on in our personal lives and our community, and all of faith gets squeezed out. Jesus tells you and I time and time again you and I cannot live by bread alone, but by a faithful relationship with the Triune Spirit. Well you have heard this morning of three negative understandings of the soil and what happens to all types of seed. The seed is sown in each case, but there are no lasting results. The evil one tells the seed to grow or not to grow. The Triune relationship is lost.