

**CHURCH FAMILY:  
KNOWING NOT WHAT YOU KNOW  
IN ADVANCE!**

**MATTHEW 13:18-23**

**Rev. Jules Ngangmeni**

**BRIDGE TO LIFE MINISTRIES – *A Wesleyan Church***  
Sunday June 28, 2020

# INTRODUCTION

**NEXT SUNDAY IS VERY IMPORTANT:  
WE WILL BE REOPENING OUR DOORS FOR SERVICES  
AND WE WILL HAVE OUR COMMUNION SERVICE**

**LET'S PREPARE FOR IT**

## MATTHEW 13:18-23 NIV

**18** “Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: **19** When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. **20** The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. **21** But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away.

## **MATTHEW 13:18-23 NIV**

**22 The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. 23 But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”**

# INTRODUCTION

1. **As the world still struggles to contain the growing pandemic that now claims the death of nearly half a million people in the world with ten million infected by the coronavirus, the USA has lost nearly 1.3 hundred with over 2.5 million infected.**
2. **The church is the one on whom the Lord counts to bring hope and restore salvation.**
3. **The parable we have today therefore becomes critical as we ask ourselves what type of soil we are!**

# INTRODUCTION

- 1. We have heard so much about this parable and about the four different soils described here: the road where nothing grows, the rocky ground, among the thorns, and the good soil... (vs. 3-9)**

# INTRODUCTION

3 He told them many things in [\[a\]](#)parables, saying, “Listen carefully: a sower went out to sow [\[seed in his field\]](#); <sup>4</sup> and as he sowed, some seed fell beside the road [\[between the fields\]](#), and the birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup> Other seed fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil; and at once they sprang up because they had no depth of soil.

# INTRODUCTION

**6** But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. **7** Other seed fell among thorns, and thorns came up and choked them out. **8** Other seed fell on good soil and yielded grain, some a hundred times as much [as was sown], some sixty [times as much], and some thirty.

**Matthew 13:3-8**



# INTRODUCTION

- 1. We search our hearts to find out who we are in relation to these described soils by the Lord Jesus**
- 2. Sometimes we are even lost in ourselves as we search so much that we barely come out of self, too focused on self to come out... yet we are eager to be the good soil!**

# 1 CORINTHIANS 10:12 TPT

**So beware if you think it could never  
happen to you, lest your pride  
becomes your downfall.**

**1 Corinthians 10:12, *The Passion Translation***

**I. THE PARABLE IS ABOUT**

**THE LORD JESUS,**

**THE REAL GOSPEL!**

# **I. THE STRANGE SOWER: JESUS**

**Before talking about the different soil let's look at the Sower in our text, the Lord Jesus:**

**A sower went out to sow... seed in his field! A sower knows his field in Jewish context of the first century. Jesus knew that.**

# I. THE STRANGE SOWER: JESUS

- **The Strange Sower knew His field very**

**well (John 2:25)** “ and He did not need anyone to testify concerning man [and human nature], for He Himself knew what was in man [in their hearts—in the very core of their being]. ”

# I. THE STRANGE SOWER: JESUS

- He decided not to know what He knew in advance (Micah 7:19; “For You have cast all my sins behind Your back.” Isaiah 38:17)

- **God alone has that great perfect ability**
- We have to imitate God (Matthew 5:48; Ephesians 5:1)

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**II. THE SEED**

**AND**

**THE GROUNDS**



## II. THE SEED AND THE GROUNDS

THE ROAD WHERE NOTHING GROWS:

*Dry – hard – stiff – deaf – without hope*

Everyone walks on that road, maybe the  
Strange Sower Himself walked on it as He came  
to saw... these indifferent dry hearts...

**Yet, He threw there the precious seed! That's  
grace!!!**

## II. THE SEED AND THE GROUNDS

THE ROCKY GROUND WHERE THE SEED IS  
WASTED:

*Rocks – little earth – little hope – answer fast – always  
wanting and yet not really wanting – in surface...*

Everything grows so fast there, and yet without  
earth there is no way for the root to grow  
deep... Enthusiastic people always passionate but  
never deep and serious...

**Yet, He threw there the precious seed! That's**

**oracelli!**

## II. THE SEED AND THE GROUNDS

AMONG THE THORNS WHERE PLANTS ARE  
CHOCKED:

*One among many other plants – hard pressed – chocked –  
can't stay in the limits – without hope*

This ground is so full already, buzzy work,  
Christ or His Word is one among so many...

**Yet, He threw there the precious seed! That's  
grace!!!**

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# **III. THE IGNORANT**

**OMNISCIENT:**

**WHAT A CONTRAST!**

## **III. THE IGNORANT OMNISCIENT**

**This parable is actually the good news, the gospel: God knows all things about us and decides to ignore it all to still talk to us about His love for us and His grace for us!**

➤ The sower went out to sow, “and as he sowed, some seed fell beside the road [between the fields]... Other seed fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil... Other seed fell among thorns, and thorns came up and choked them out.”

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**IV. THE CHURCH FAMILY:**  
**KNOWING NOT WHAT**  
**YOU KOW IN ADVANCE!**



## IV. THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST

The Lord Jesus knows all things, all hearts and mind. Yet He decides not to know it in order to reach our hearts - whether it be the road, the rocky ground, among the thorns, or the good ground.

*Like Jesus, let us look at our brothers and sister – even if we do know them well and tag them already – like Jesus looks at them.*

Don't be so proud to be the good ground that produces much fruit that you don't look at others with arace.

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# CONCLUSION

## **CONCLUSION**

The Lord works in ways unimaginable. If we just open up no matter our circumstances, He will do wonders with and through us. It is demonstrated in the story of Annie J. Flint.

Few have experienced agony like Annie Johnson Flint (1866–1932). Both of her parents died during her childhood. She grew up an orphan — fortunately, in a family where she was taught the Scriptures, reading, writing, and music.

## CONCLUSION

But even then, Annie's childhood dream of becoming a concert pianist was quickly dissolved when she developed severe rheumatoid arthritis in just her early-twenties. The arthritis was so severe that by Annie's thirtieth-birthday she could no longer walk. Her hands were disfigured, her body was twisted, and she was rarely able to sleep because of the extreme discomfort she experienced throughout her joints.

## **CONCLUSION**

Though her physical body became more deformed with each passing year, Christ was powerfully being formed in Annie through her agony and suffering. Despite the intense pain it brought to her contorted fingers, Annie was a prolific writer and poet. She regularly reflected upon God's Word, his promises, and his abiding presence in her life through poetry and prose.

## **CONCLUSION**

Though she spent most of her life stuck inside her little room in a Sanitarium, she rarely—if ever—complained about her condition. Those who knew her best described her as bright, encouraging, and surprisingly humorous. In fact, it was her heart for people that started her writing career as she created cards and gift-books containing her poetry for friends who needed encouragement.

# CONCLUSION

## **Poetry Born From Pain**

As the Lord blessed Annie's writing ministry, her works were published and widely distributed.

People marveled that such beautiful lyrics could be composed by hands so compromised by constant pain. The dominant theme of her writing was God's goodness. His goodness in creation, his goodness in his being and character, his goodness in his works, and his goodness particularly amid trials and adversity.



## CONCLUSION

We see this in her poem, “What God Hath Promised,” in lines like:

God hath not promised smooth roads and wide,  
Swift, easy travel, needing no guide;  
Never a mountain rocky and steep  
Never a river turbid and deep.

But God hath promised strength for the day,  
Rest for the labor, light for the way,  
Grace for the trials, help from above,  
Unfailing sympathy, undying love.

## CONCLUSION

Annie was ruthlessly honest about life's difficulties. She refused to gloss over pain and suffering, and in her poetry, she never minimized the experience of living in a world marred by sin.

But Annie also resisted the equally strong tendency to become cynical and pessimistic. She, better than most, wrote with one eye on the present hardships and the other on God's eternal goodness and purposes in them.

So she wrote this song: He giveth more grace

# CONCLUSION

1 He giveth more grace as our burdens grow  
greater,

He sendeth more strength as our labours  
increase,

To added afflictions he addeth his mercy,

To multiplied trials he multiplies peace.

# CONCLUSION

3 His love has no limits, his grace has no measure,

His power no boundary known unto men;  
For out of his infinite riches in Jesus

He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again.

# CONCLUSION

2 When we have exhausted our store of endurance,

When our strength has failed ere the day is half-done,

When we reach the end of our hoarded resources  
Our Father's full giving is only begun.

# **CONCLUSION**

**She became a good soil that let the Word of God produce much fruits for us today to rejoice when we consider God's abundant grace in our life.**

**He giveth more grace!!!  
Amen!**

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