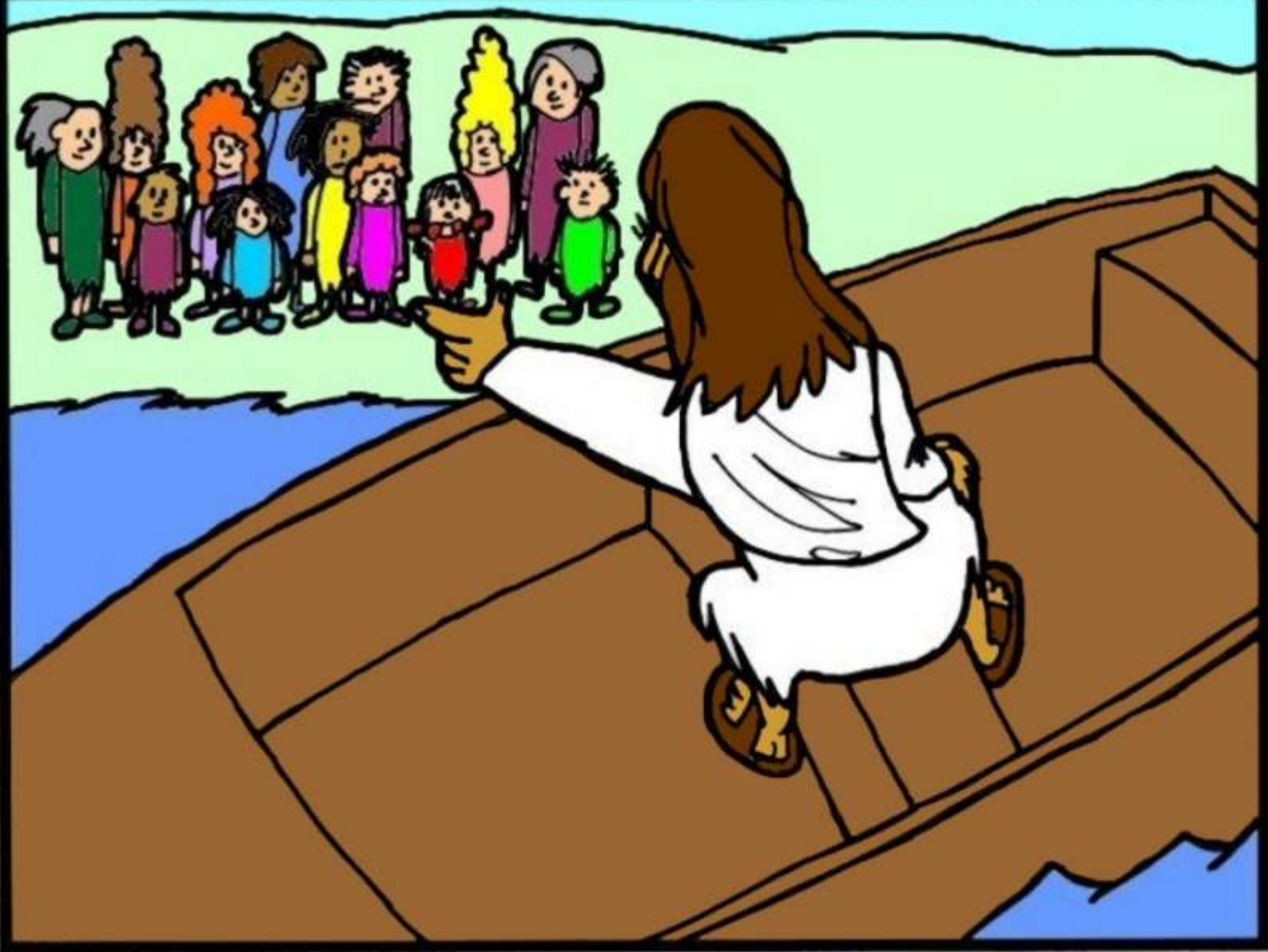


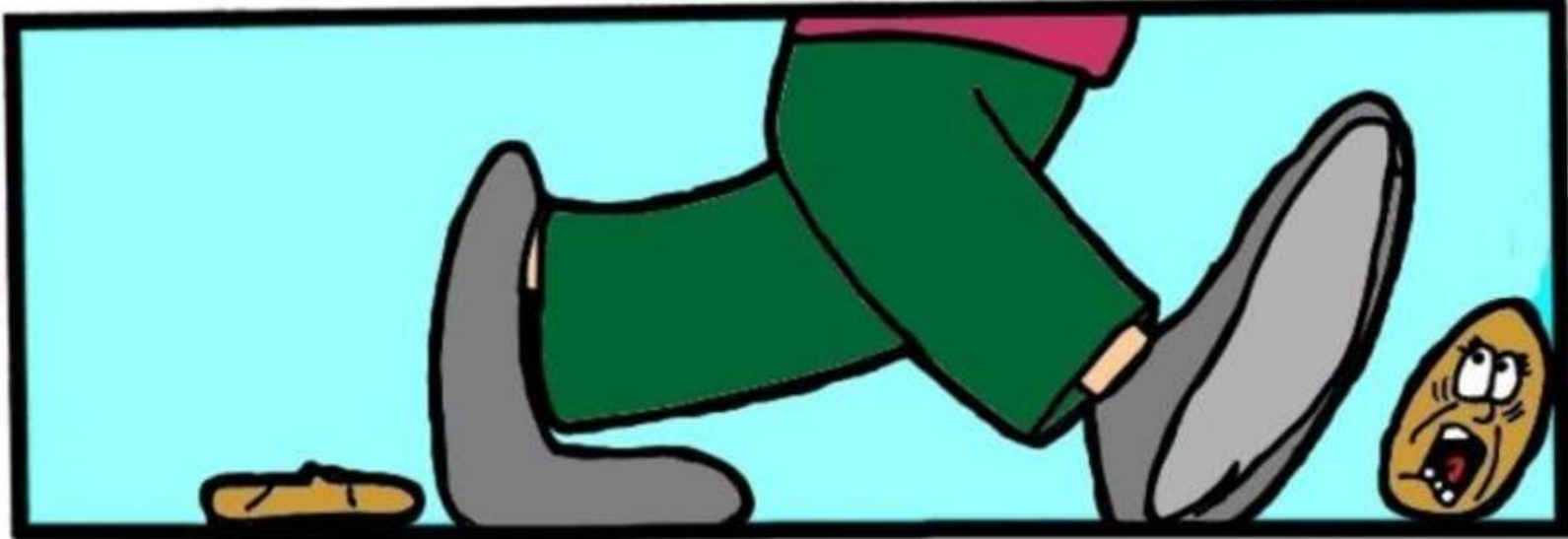
Parable - Sower Sows The Word

(Based on Mark 4:1-25, Matthew 13:1-23,
Luke 8: 4-18)

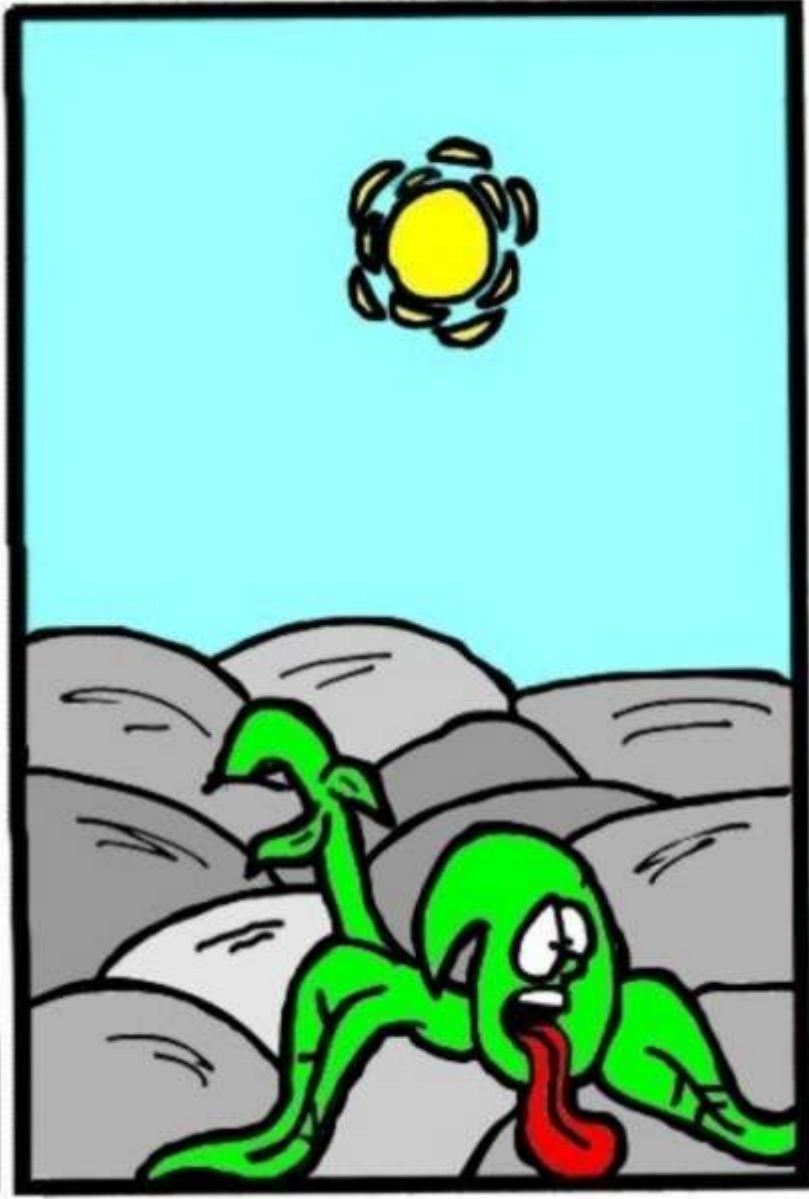
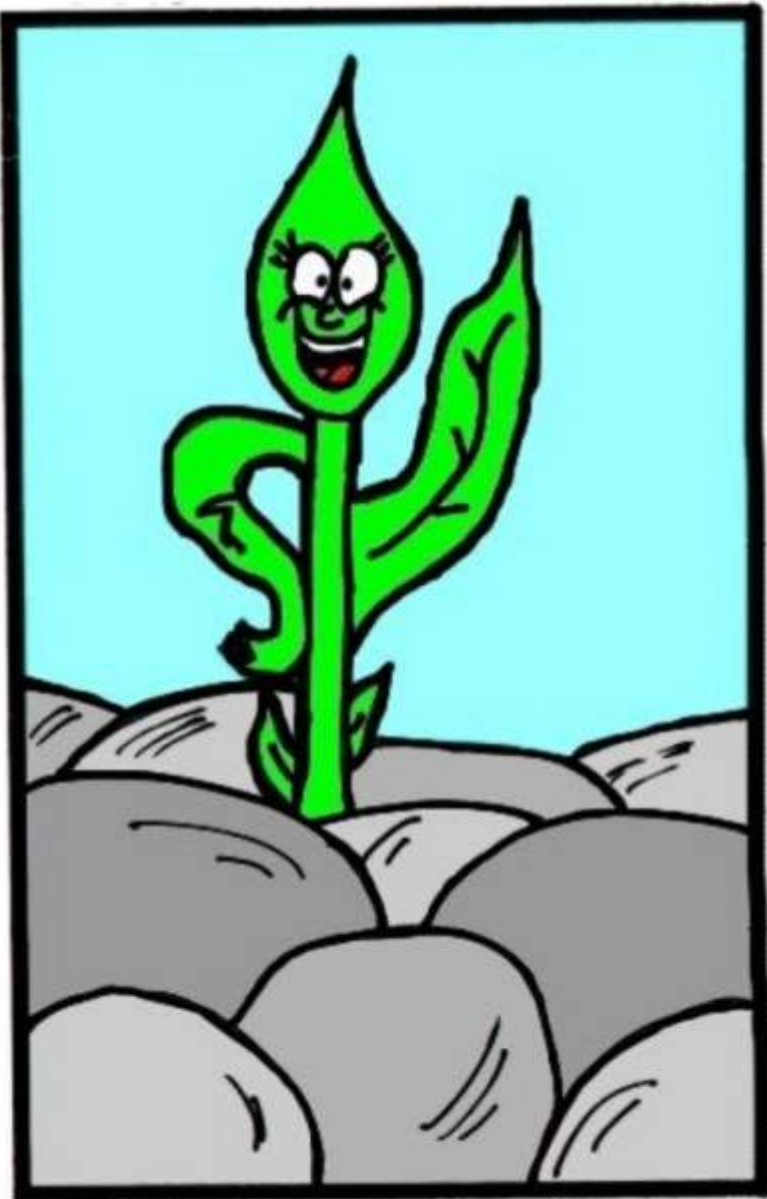
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Once again Jesus got into a boat, pushed out from the shore and taught a big crowd of people. He taught them many things by using parables. Parables are stories about common things of life, but they have a deeper spiritual Truth.



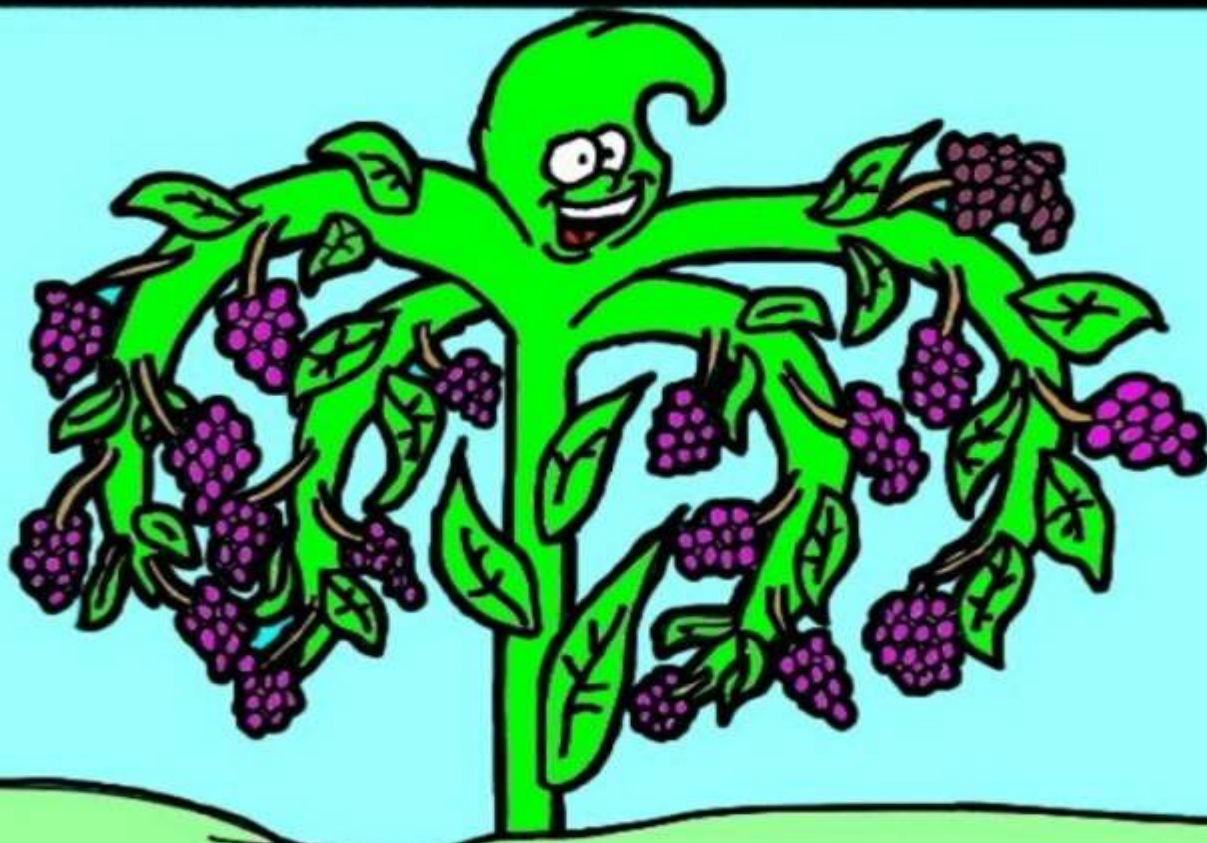
"Listen! A farmer went out to plant his seeds and it happened that some of the seeds fell by the roadside. People walked all over those seeds and the birds came and ate them.



Some of the seeds fell on rocky ground, where there was not much soil. Immediately the seeds grew. But as soon as the sun was up and it was hot, the plants withered away because they had no roots and could not get water.



Some of the seeds fell in the middle of thistles. So at the same time that the good seeds were growing, the bad seeds were growing too. The thistles choked the good plants so that they could grow no fruit.



But some seed fell on good ground. Those seeds grew. Some of those seeds made 30 times as much harvest, some 60 times and some made 100 times as much. If you have ears to hear, then hear!" said Jesus.



Later when Jesus was alone, the disciples asked, "Lord, we don't get it. What did this parable mean?" "How will you understand all the other parables?" answered Jesus. "Now listen to the story.



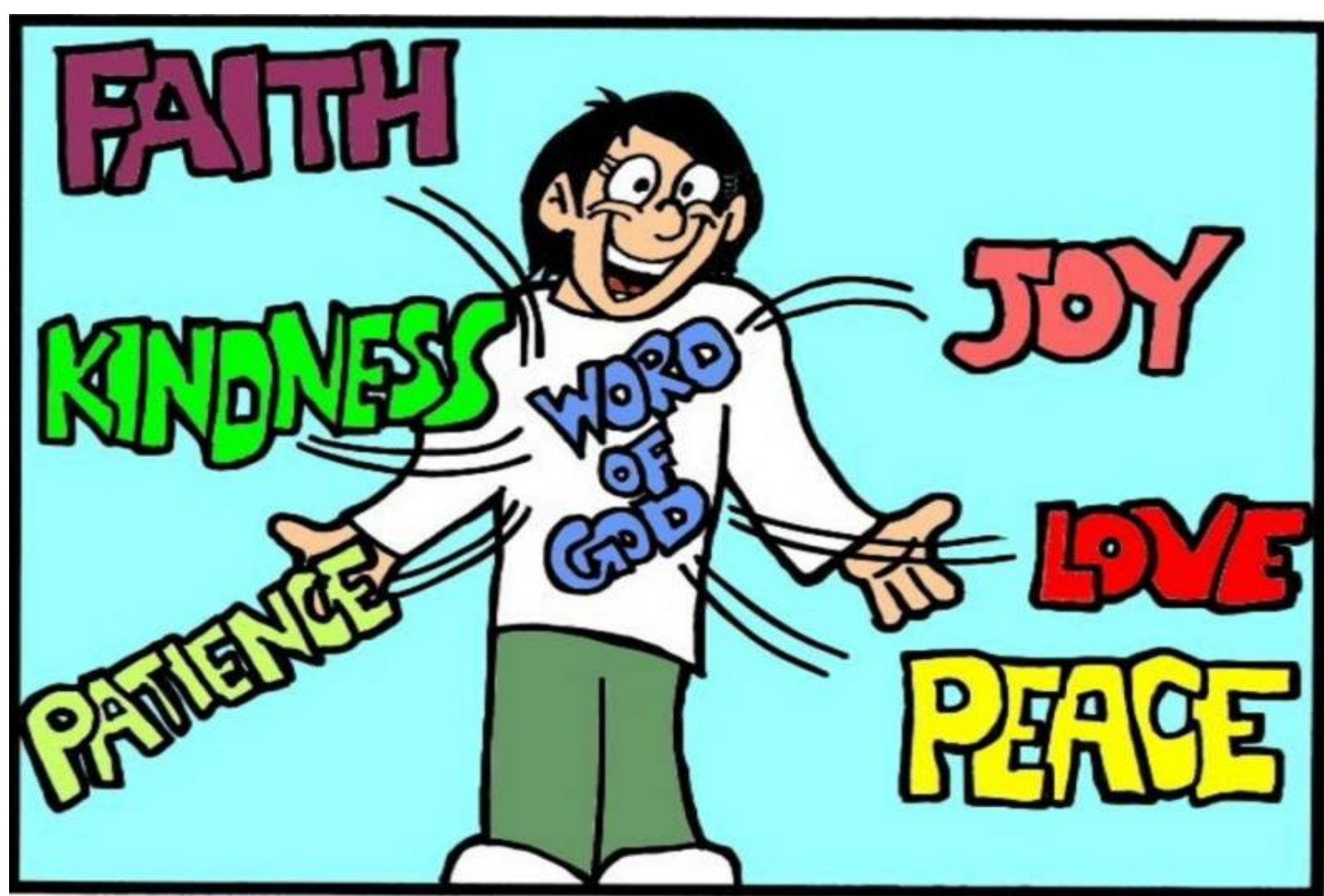
When anyone hears the Word of the Kingdom of God and doesn't understand it, then the devil comes and steals away the seeds that were planted in his heart. This is just like the seeds that landed on the roadside.



The seeds that fell on the rocky ground are like the people who when they hear the Word of God joyfully accept it. But they have no root in themselves so when hard times come or when people treat them bad because of the Word of God, then they stop believing.



The seeds that fell in the thistles are like people who hear God's Word and start growing, but they get distracted. They worry about problems. They just want money, stuff and fun times. All these things choke the Word of God and those people never produce fruit for God like they could.



The seeds that were planted in the good ground are like people who hear the Word of God, understand it, hold tight to it and patiently produce fruit for God, 30 times as much, 60 times as much and 100 times as much.”



Lord, help my heart to be good ground for your word seeds to grow. Help me to keep the weeds out.