All Saints Anglican Church of Luxembourg



Church on the Lawn

at 10:45 on Sunday, 23rd August 2026

Cardinal's Garden, Avenue Marie-Thérèse

Matthew 13: 18-23

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower.

Path

When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path.

Rocky ground

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

Thorns

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

Good soil

But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

What is Jesus' explanation saying to us? A conversation guided by Alison

I asked, is Jesus' story about the sower, or the seeds, or the soil?

Who is the sower?

What is the seed?

What or who is the soil?

What does the soil ***do?***

Jesus says 'the one', 'the person', but translation doesn't help: neither singular nor plural in OV, so might be the soil is a person, might be a group.

Individualism of Europe – it's an individual!

OK, but also – a group! A group of us!

All Saints, Together We Grow!

What kind of soil are we at All Saints? (Don't give the easy answers, try to 'dig' a bit)

What kind of soil do we *want* to be at All Saints? Discuss.

What kind of soil does God ask us to be, at All Saints?

We've just picked up on the fact that God/Jesus the sower *does* something. The seeds do something. The weeds and thorns do something too. The rain and the sun are active. But the soil. Stays still. I asked Ben about this, because his science background is in agriculture, and he said the soil *is* doing something, it's reacting, it's changing according to what's growing in it and what happens to it. But it is, to the naked eye, just sitting there, while the seeds grow. Hold that thought.

Path

Let's go back to the parable and think about the seeds of God's love which he is planting in people. People come into church, community, don't always understand what they're looking for. Good news, but what is good news? How can we be soil to help them understand?

Rocky ground

People come to All Saints, maybe new, maybe been here many years, but it's somehow hard to put down roots into God's love. A superficial understanding, but where are those deep roots which help us draw God's living water when times are hard? How can we be soil to help each other grow deep roots?

Thorns

We come to All Saints, but we have a lot going on. Work, family here, family far away, work, social media, studies, work, news, associations, sports, work, health… Jesus says these cares, and the lure of money (work?) can 'choke his word'. How can we be soil which is relatively clear of weeds and thorns, so our All Saints can grow without being choked?

Good soil

We come to All Saints and we worry we're one of those other patches of soil, the ones we've already heard about. Or we look at someone else here and think: "he's the one who bears fruit and yields in a hundredfold" or , "she's bearing lots of fruit too, look at her, I could never be like her".

Remember: these seeds which bear good fruit are growing in good soil, but if we're called to be the soil, it doesn't do much of the work, it receives and feeds the seed, and soaks up the sun and rain which come to it. Everything else comes to the soil, and the soil just gives back from what it's receiving.

We are the same. Don't look at someone else and think they're doing better than you. Look to Jesus, just like we've been saying all summer. God is the gardener, he sends the rain, and the rain in this case is his Holy Spirit. Nothing grows in us from us trying harder. The deep roots, the green leaves, the full flowers and fruits, come from receiving the rain and the sun, receiving God's love on a daily basis.

Turn to Jesus and put your roots down in him. Bask in the sunshine of his love, receive the refreshing rain of his Spirit. And see how your roots will grow! Develop the taste for his love, develop the habit and the desire for time with him, and see how fruit will come!

As summer draws to a close, here's the surprising message for the *end* of the holidays, the start of work and school: *rest* in God. Be like the soil: do less, soak up more of God's love. *Stop* trying. Cut out some of the doing in order to *be*: *be* together. Pray and study God's word, alone and together. *Rest* in God, find your roots growing deeper as you allow his Spirit to work in your life, and in our lives, together at All Saints.