

A man goes into a very difficult area. He may toil and present the Word of God. He may present God's truth with power and yet may have very little effect because most of the people fall under the first category here mentioned. He does not need to be discouraged, because if he is serving the Lord as He ~~seuld~~ should, if he is giving the proper seed, if he is giving it out to the best of his ability it brings forth the fruit that God intends it to and in the course of it there is doubtless some that will hit upon good soil and the results of it may not even become apparent (to him) in his lifetime.

Many a man who has toiled and struggled for years and seen little effect for his labor has had the result of his labor show up in the next generation, in ways he never dreamed of.

I visited a family in northern Pennsylvania one time and there was a man and woman who were very active in Christian service. I was interested to know something of their background. I found that in that town about 30 years earlier there had been a minister in a church who had been in that town about 3 years who had tried very hard to get the people interested in Bible study and the great things of the Gospel, and he seemed to have comparatively little effect.

He organized some Bible classes that met for a time and they gradually dwindled away. He did not seem to have much evident effect from what he did after three years. I guess it must have been about two ~~years~~, and he left. He went out to the middle west where he did a fine ~~piece~~ piece of work and as he looked back on his life he probably felt that the time spent in that little town ~~in~~ in PA had been entirely wasted. But shortly after he began that Bible class there was a young man in his early 20's who came to the class and became interested, and there was a young woman there in the class who similarly became interested and the two of them got together and eventually were married and the seed that was ~~sown~~ sown in the heart of this young man and young woman while that ~~min~~ minister was there, bore great fruit in subsequent years.

When I visited them they were having several Bible classes in different parts of the ~~town~~ town. They had reached many people for Christ. They had three sons. One of them became a minister. One became a missionary. They accomplished much for the Lord. I can imagine that as that minister looked back upon his life and saw how God had used him at various places in Ohio, went back to the time when he had spent 2 or 3 years in this little town in N. PA, and thought that was the discouraging part of my life. It was just rocky and nothing was accomplished, when actually it may have been one of the great effects of his life. Though most of the seed fell on rocky soil and accomplished little, some had brought forth, I think in that case, one hundred fold, even though he probably never knew of it.

So that is the central thought in the ~~parable~~ parable--that we are to scatter the seed, and we do not know what parts of it land on poor soil, what parts of it the birds take away, what parts are chocked up by the thornes. We do not know but God knows.