

## **St. Luke Ev. Lutheran Church**

### **Sermon by Pastor Anthony E. Schultz Pentecost 21 Sowing Seeds October 21, 2012**



Matthew 13:1-9

Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB)

#### **The Parable of the Sower**

**13.1 On that day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. <sup>2</sup> Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat down, while the whole crowd stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup> Then He told them many things in parables, saying: “Consider the sower who went out to sow. <sup>4</sup> As he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate them up. <sup>5</sup> Others fell on rocky ground, where there wasn’t much soil, and they sprang up quickly since the soil wasn’t deep. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered. <sup>7</sup> Others fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Still others fell on good ground and produced a crop: some 100, some 60, and some 30 times what was sown. <sup>9</sup> Anyone who has ears should listen!”**

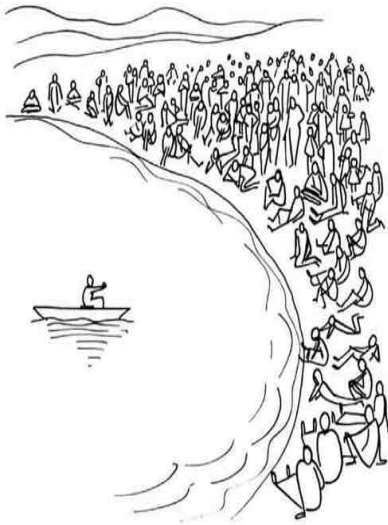
People of God – rescued from the flaming lake of fire in hell by the innocent blood of the very Lamb of God:

On TV they have a channel that plays classic movies – from the 30s and 40s. They have a host who introduces the movie – and then at the end--tells a story or two about the making of the movie. The other day they showed a 1948 movie called *Sitting Pretty*. It’s about Mr. Belvedere – the nanny for 3 small children that belong to a lawyer Robert Young – *Father Knows Best* and his wife Maureen O’Hara. In one scene Mr. Belvedere is supposed to spill oatmeal on this little person 1 ½ years old – and this little toddler is supposed to cry – but he doesn’t. He laughs. How do you make this little person cry? They yelled at him. They startled him. Every time he just laughed! So – what did they do? They turned off all the lights and had his mom say, “I’m leaving you and I’m not coming back!” That made him cry! *How terrible is that?* Oh, we are big people. Truth be told are you afraid of the dark? Are you afraid of public speaking? Are you afraid of going into one of those tubes in the hospital? Just about everybody is afraid of a mouse – or a rat – or a snake – or a spider or something! We don’t need to be. We don’t even need to fear death itself – because Jesus took away all our sin and guilt. That good news of sin forgiven and heaven won is the seed we sow. Today God’s Word encourages us:

## Sow the Gospel Seed!

1. Scatter it everywhere-
2. Scatter it before it's too late!

*Context:* When I was little I always thought everybody loved Jesus. Oh, I knew at the very end they crucified Him. But I guess I always thought Jesus was so wonderful – he gave sight to blind people – healed people who were dying a lonely death from leprosy – fed thousands with the best fish fry ever – and made scary storms at sea stop – simply by saying, “**Peace! Be still!**” And it was completely calm! Jesus never ever hurt anyone! But that didn’t stop people from hating Him! Remember that one time when Jesus was in this home – and his enemies were yelling at Him and arguing with Him – so that they didn’t even stop to eat? Remember how Mary and Jesus’ brothers – remember? **James, Joseph, Judas and Simon** and Mary thought Jesus was having a nervous break-down – a panic attack – and they needed to rescue Him and take Him away? Remember? They told Jesus your Mother and your brothers are outside – and they want to see you. Jesus asked, “**Who is my Mother and who are my Brothers? Those who do the will of my Father in Heaven are my Mother and Sisters and Brothers!**” Remember?



Jesus would not be discouraged and Jesus would not be intimidated by the Pharisees and the Elders and Teachers of the Law! Time was growing shorter and shorter and Jesus would scatter the seeds of the Gospel – while it was still daylight – before the night came when no one could work. **13.1 On that day Jesus went out of the house and was sitting by the sea. <sup>2</sup>Such large crowds gathered around Him that He got into a boat and sat down, while the whole crowd stood on the shore. <sup>3</sup>Then He told them many things in parables... Large crowds gathered around Jesus – to the point that Jesus got into a small boat – and pushed out a little bit into the water. From this unique little pulpit Jesus taught the people about the Kingdom of God. Large crowds**

**gathered around him.** Jesus taught God’s Word to all kinds of people. It never ceases to amaze me – all the different kinds of people Jesus made. The Gospel is intended for people who are very tall. When I was at Northwestern College one of my friends was Pastor Beck Goldbeck the III. He was 6’7” – probably the tallest friend I ever had. Beck Goldbeck the III lived next door to a Sextaner – who had an aquarium and a fish named Fish Gold-fish! Get it? Fish Goldfish? On April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Meinhardt Raabe

died – 94 years old. I went to Meinhardt’s funeral at Immanuel in Farmington. I will never forget Pastor Pagel saying Meinhardt used to walk behind the altar at Immanuel when he came to Lord’s Supper. Behind the altar at Immanuel is a stained glass window of a Lamb. Meinhardt knew that Lamb – the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world! When I get to Heaven I will meet Meinhardt who is so short he is literally a Munchkin. I like that! Last Sunday Nancy and I went to her Aunt Dorothy’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday down in Sturtevant. There were lots of people there! One of our relatives had a shaved head – but a really nice all white beard. There was one young lady there – who didn’t have any hair on her head. I’m pretty sure she was having cancer treatments. Jesus loves her very much, too. I met a lady there who is a Staff Minister – who used to be a Nanny. She was very nice, too. There were some of Nancy’s cousins – who are at least 6’7”. Sometimes they have to duck to go through doorways. I love them, too. Everyone – anyone – was welcome to gather around Jesus!

Jesus would have us scatter the seed of the Gospel everywhere! God’s Word says: <sup>4</sup> **As he was sowing, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and ate them up.** <sup>5</sup> **Others fell on rocky ground, where there wasn’t much soil, and they sprang up quickly since the soil wasn’t deep.** <sup>6</sup> **But when the sun came up they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered.** <sup>7</sup> **Others fell among thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them.** <sup>8</sup> **Still others fell on good ground and produced a crop...** The seed of the Gospel needs to be scattered everywhere! Places like the Ukraine. Could you find the Ukraine on a globe? Do you remember Bishop Horpynchuk? He made a sermon here – when he was in Watertown for the Synod Convention. There are some 26 different congregations we are in fellowship within the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. In one city there is Nativity congregation, Resurrection congregation and Ascension congregation. How wonderful is that? We are in fellowship with the Confessional Lutheran Church in Latvia. Again – could you find Latvia on a globe? There are some 7 congregations in Latvia. We are in fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia. There are congregations in Brisbane, Gympie, Hervey Bay, Mackay and Maryborough. We are in fellowship with the Lutheran Confessional Church in Finland, in Norway and in Sweden. There are believers in Nigeria – but also in Benin and Togo – formerly French Togo Land – where life is so painfully primitive – there are people there – who have never seen peach colored people like me. Where people literally live in a jungle – with paths for roads – where a bicycle would be considered a great luxury. Where people are horribly afraid of the curse of Voodoo. Where people have never been told about Jesus at all! Chances are most of us will never ever be 7 thousand miles from Watertown. So what is to be done about these people? We can bring Rooted in Christ thank offerings and Synod Mission Offerings to send Missionaries. And our children and grandchildren can go to TSL and Luther Prep

and Lakeside Lutheran High School and Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary to be the people who do literally go to these places and teach people about Jesus! We can bring our gifts to send the gift of the Savior literally around the world before it's too late!

**Some seed fell along the path....<sup>5</sup> Others fell on rocky ground, where there wasn't much soil....<sup>7</sup> Others fell among thorns... still others fell on good ground ...** Scatter the seed before it's too late! Scatter the seed everywhere. We were driving down to Aunt Dorothy's birthday party when we passed a car with vanity license plates. It said "GOD JC R 1" Get it? God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son--are One! At first I was surprised they let you have God on your license plate. God and Jesus Christ are One! You can't drive around with license plates like that – and not have people ask you – what's that about – in the grocery store parking lot. And then you get to tell them! We were driving down to Chicago one day – with our 17 fish on the back of the Envoy – when somebody pulled up beside us – honking and waving. We looked – and there was someone with their foot stuck out the passenger side window – pointing. There was a Christian fish tat on her ankle! They waved – we waved! There's somebody we may not see again – until we are in Heaven. Hey – remember us?

Some seeds **fell on good ground!** On Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup> a Canadian – a tourist named Jason Kroft was visiting NY City – the Big Apple. He was pretty excited. In fact so excited he had a heart attack! Down onto the sidewalk he fell clutching his chest! Jason's wife and daughter cried out for help. Many cold hard New Yorkers simply walked around them – completely oblivious to their desperate need! Then someone stopped and gave Jason CPR – with such passion and push he cracked several ribs. But you know what? That's not so bad – considering the alternative – which is no heartbeat – and no oxygen to the brain. Pretty soon the Paramedics came – and by the grace of God – Jason is doing just fine. Jason and his family are putting up posters all over the neighborhood – asking – are you the Good Samaritan? Do you know who it was that pushed on my heart and saved my life! There are all kinds of people who need to know that Jesus died for them and rose again – to give them a new heart – a heart of faith. They need to know that the one to thank is Jesus their Savior and their Lord!

Some seed fell here and there and everywhere! Sometimes – when I am micro-waving a cup of coffee – I will click on the TV. The other day – *Mythbusters* was on. They were trying to do the things super heroes do in Comic books. One of those super hero things is where you shoot a grappling hook from your wrist and pull yourself up. And at first – it worked. The cable fired up into the warehouse ceiling – and then push the button and the cable rewinds – and up, up, up you go. And I thought that's pretty

cool! But now what? You are hanging by your wrist from the ceiling?! There is a safety line – so you are safe. All you have to do is cut the cable with your handy pocket knife. Good thinking – to bring your trusty pocket knife! Cut the cable – it snaps – boing! You smack yourself in the face and cut your nose?! That’s not good! We are not super heroes! We make painful and sometimes even self-destructive mistakes. But we can sow the seeds of the Gospel. We can scatter the seeds of the Gospel of God’s mercy full and free. Only the Holy Spirit can make that seed take root and grow. And when it does – souls are rescued for eternity. Nothing could be more wondrous than that! Amen!

To God alone all glory!

*Pastor Anthony E. Schultz*

SOWING  
SEEDS