

“The Parable of the Sower”

Mark 4:1-9

October 6, 2013

Rev. Jeong Park

Fair Oaks United Methodist Church

My sermon will be short today!

These last Sundays, we've been exploring the parables which exemplify the Kingdom of God. We know that “God reigns” wherever we are in our lives. Today's parable describes how a farmer sows his seeds to assure a healthy crop. Some of you may read this story focusing on the soils or seeds, but I urge you to focus on the sower. God is a sower as is the farmer. From a farmer's perspective, there are failures, hardships, troubles and pain because many seeds go wasted. This is true in our God's kingdom also. But the highlight in this scripture today is in verse 8. Not all seeds fall on fertile soil which could have thorns, rocks and be worn down, but still other seed falls on good soil, and produces a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Even though the seed is expensive, the farmer never stops. In the same way, God continues to invest in us. God never gives up! Jesus challenges us whoever has ears, let them hear, are you listening to this, really listening?

God is a farmer and the seed that is sown is Jesus Christ. Our God, a farmer, plants the seed of Jesus Christ everywhere. Our own Methodist Church began with John Wesley's passion and dedication back in the early 18th century. He had experienced many failures in the beginning of his ministry, but God never stopped nor gave up on him! God continued to work within him and through his ministry. In his journal June 11, 1739, he said “I look on all over the world as my parish.” He committed his whole life to sharing good news with the world. Now, there are 80 million Methodists in the world including the United States, Europe, Canada, Africa, Asia, Pacific islands including the Kingdom of Tonga. For the kingdom of Tonga, Christianity was first introduced in 1797 when ten missionaries from the London Missionary Society arrived at Tongatapu, the main island, but shortly after their arrival, half of the missionaries died and those who were still alive quickly had to leave the island. But they never gave up. In 1882, the Wesleyan missionaries came and shared Christianity. In August 1831, Taufa'ahau was baptized by some Wesleyan missionaries. Taufa'ahu later became **King George Tupou I** of Tonga. There is still strong Christianity in Tonga, especially Methodist Churches. God persistently had planted seeds in the Kingdom of Tonga and we share today with our own Tongan congregation and ministry here at Fair Oaks church.

I am grateful to our church for your welcoming them as our brothers and sisters in this family. Thanks to our Tongan ministry, Tongan Luau has been our fun annual tradition since 2011 at our church. But due to our circumstance in our Tonga language ministry, we almost canceled our Luau this year. I am so delighted and glad to have ‘No Luau Luau’ after service. I appreciate your support to keep the spirit of Luau this year. God never stops planting seed among us. God will continue to work through our Tongan Language ministry here and our Fair Oaks Church. May God also graciously continue to work within you in your life journey as well! Amen.