

**Sow What! Mark 4:26-34 Sunday June 16 2024 DJK
Monarto & Holy Cross**

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ **Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.** ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

This is not the best year to talk about seeding.

It's mid-June and it's only just rained and we're desperately looking for more.

Not too many of us can remember a start this late in the season – that's if it is a start.

Of course, those who are seeding right now, today, are wondering whether it's too late.

There's a whole page in this week's stock journal naming all the areas around the country where seeding has not even started - that's only week ago.

Richard Fabry, from Pinery, said it's a “nervous waiting game” – you know that.

It says that some put their machinery away weeks ago.

Seed, fuel, fertiliser, and time, it's just not worth it.

We always want the best possible chance of a harvest – if all the stars don't line up – some famers simply won't seed; they just won't take the chance.

There are millions of dollars at stake – I don't need to tell you this.

It's all about the crop – is it worth it?

There was a Landline show last week, it was a repeat from 2022, set in NSW. The show was called “the never-ending flood”.

It showed how that country in central NSW is evolving into a cycle of 3 year flood and 3 year drought.

It showed how it was impossible for those famers to plan ahead.

They were expecting drought, which is now, but it was too wet back then to cut hay and be prepared.

There were acres and acres of hay and cotton under water.

Famer's spoke in millions of dollars lost.

Nobody wants to sow and not reap?

God said right in the beginning (Genesis 8): “*as long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest will never cease*”.

But no matter what we don't want to sow and not reap.

I think we need to forget our age-old farming practices when we think of this text. Because some of God's farming comparisons are lost on us Aussies.

We don't leave a 100 sheep unattended to look for one.

We don't seed in the rocks.

We don't seed if the season looks bad.

We seed the soil, and we also reap the harvest.

Jesus says: ***'One sows and another reaps.'*** *I send you to reap that for which you have not "[sowen]"* – John 4:35-38

"The text is about the kingdom not farming.

"One sows and another reaps"- it's not like that for us unless we use contractors.

We need to forget our farming ways to appreciate what Jesus is saying.

Drive from Callington to Kanmantoo – you see how perfectly the Wegner boys go around those little rocky outcrops.

Those rocks are probably on their GPS – The GPS says stay away.

We avoid the rocks, avoid the box thorns, and avoid the paths.

The Sower sows into the rocks, into the box thorns, and along the path.

In the Greek language of this story "The Sower" is just that – "The" Sower – it has a definite article – "The" Sower went out – not a Sower went out – but The Sower, the one we all know, went out and sowed the seed in places where we just wouldn't.

Is "The" Sower mad.

This is about the kingdom, "The Sower" is full of grace – even the rocks, and box thorns, and paths, get the good seed.

Jesus sows seed in Samaria – no one goes to Samaria.

He was friends with tax collectors and sinners.

You've heard the disciples complain:

- 'Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?'" ([Luke 5:30](#)).
- "He should know what sort of a woman this is who is touching him, *for she is a sinner*" ([Luke 7:39](#)).
- "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner" ([Luke 19:7](#)).

Jesus sows seed into a drought, into a flood, into impossible conditions – even Samaria.

He is the God of grace. Everyone gets the seed.

If there is no seeding there will definitely be no harvest.

That's something we can connect to. The agony of seeding in a drought – “if I don't seed there will be no crop.”

That's why most South Australia did dry sowing this year.

No seeding no crop – Jesus “The Sower” sows the seed every-where and any-where.

No seeding no crop.

No seeding, means no relying on God to grow the seed.

It seems that sowing is the most important Job in the kingdom – because it put's God's word out there for the Holy Spirit to work with.

No seeding no crop.

It's not our calling to look at the season and conditions.

In the kingdom - no seeding no crop.

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature” – Mark 16:15.

“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every nation” – Matt 28;

God's Word, that is your love and words and actions, is never sown in vain. It will accomplish its purpose – ***“For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it”*** – Isaiah 55:10-11.

God backs each and every seed you sow – each seed will not return empty, each seed will accomplish what God wants it to do.

The power is in the seed - ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek”*** – Romans 1:16.

The power is in the seed – ***“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.”***
Hebrews 4:12

No seeding no crop.

No seeding no kids knowing the creator – no kids knowing the Lord's prayer – no kids knowing Jesus loves me.

No seeding no crop.

“They” say there are Billions of people who have never heard God's word spoken to them.

Could that be true?

Could it be that in your street/road, or even in your own family there are people with no hope, people with seemingly unending trouble, people going through impossible trials, who have never heard about the powerful hope God has for them.

Can I encourage you to join “The” Sower?

Can I ask you to be one of Jesus’ faithful Sowers – knowing the power is in the seed, in the words, in the actions, not in yourself.

We’re rural people, we’re connected to the land, we want to sow into good ground and into a good season.

That’s the calling of a famer.

The Kingdom calling is different.

We’re called to sow where others wouldn’t.

True grace is to sow in the rocks, in the box thorns, along the path.

Our calling is to sow – to follow the footsteps of The Sower. The saying is true: **‘One sows and another reaps.’**

Our calling is to trust the power in the seed: ***Night and day, whether the famer sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.***

And this saying is true also:

“as long as the earth remains, seedtime and harvest shall not cease.

Let’s finish with Paul from 1st Corinthians (3):

You do hear some horrible things about the Corinthians – but listen, I reckon, they must have been famers:

What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.... For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s [farm].

No seed no crop.

Lord send us to sow your word in places where nobody would bother. Bless what we do and say in your name. Amen.