

Daniel 6; Matthew 13: 1 – 9, 18 – 23

'Remembrance and Seeds'

Introduction ...

In our New Testament reading – we had the Parable of the Sower and then its explanation.

I wonder – did you need the explanation – or did you already know it?

On this Remembrance Sunday, I'd like to take a slightly alternative view ... perhaps our minds will be able to look at this afresh.

What kind of seed?

Taken at 'Face Value', the parable invites us to think about what kind of ground or soil we are:

like a path

like rocky ground

like thorny ground

like good soil.

I suspect that we're likely to be all 4 ... And that's not a bad thing because the seeds that can be sown in our lives are not always those that we want to grow ...

Seeds of discontent or greed ...

Seeds of insecurity ...

Seeds of nationalism at the expense of poorer countries ...

And so on ...

Best if those seeds do fall on the path, or the rocky or thorny ground.

We don't want to give fruitful soil to those seeds that will fuel the livelihood of destructive conflict – personally

- nationally
- globally

In Galatians 5, we're given two contrasting lists ... first things that are not of God ... seeds that grow and cause harm: including:

enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, factions, envy, drunkenness

Can we spot when these seeds are being sown – and not give them room in our own lives ... as well as naming them in our public life – so that they don't grow almost in secret or without challenge ...

Then the second list is the one with the fruits of the Spirit:

PTO

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

The seeds of these need to fall onto our good ground; they need to be nurtured in our own lives and praised when exhibited in public life.

Seeds of war ...

The seeds of war include greed plus selfishness, arrogance and pride. These need to be resisted ... to fall on rocky ground. But the seeds of these also include injustice, hopelessness, poverty and fear.

And the seeds of the fruits of the Spirit – falling onto our good ground and yielding 30, 60 or 100 fold will help to prevent these seeds from growing.

Conclusion ...

May our Remembrance this year be linked with an understanding of what kinds of seeds need to be ‘shown the door’ and what other kinds of seeds – the seeds that Jesus shows, that the Spirit nurtures need to be welcomed and nurtured in our individual and corporate lives.

Amen.