

**Sermon Title: "All You Need Is a Seed"**  
**Rev. Dr. Neichelle Guidry, Dean of Chapel, Spelman College**  
**Date: April 24, 2022**  
**Scripture: Matthew 13: 1-9**

## **The Parable of the Sower**

**13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. 3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."**

### **Summary**

God speaks to us through creation. Through parables designed to relate to the egalitarian culture of ancient times, Jesus used the Parable of the Sower to illustrate truths about the receptiveness to God's Word differ depending upon whose heart it is planted. The Parable can also be used to provide lessons on how to plant seeds:

1. **All of us are called to sow seeds.** God has given us gifts, talents, abilities and skills to sow into the world. By sowing our seeds, we are able to transform the lives of others. It doesn't matter how big or small or seed it, we must never be afraid to sow it.
2. **Be intentional about where you sow your seeds.** In this parable the seeds which failed to produce fruit didn't do so not because of the poor quality of the seed, but rather because it was planted in poor quality ground. Don't waste your seed, don't waste your efforts in places which don't provide you with the proper support or sustenance.
3. **Know that wherever a seed is planted it is God, and only God who grows the seeds.** We plant, yet it is God who gives the increase.

### **Reflection Questions**

1. What "seeds" i.e. gifts, talents, abilities and skills, are you sowing in the world?
2. Are there talents, abilities, gifts, skills that God has given you that you are "sitting" on? What do you think is hindering you from using them?
3. Describe a time you sowed your "seeds" in a place where they didn't grow. As you reflect on the time, what do you think caused the seed not to flourish?
4. How can you be more intentional about sowing seeds in places that will support their growth?
5. Describe a time when God grew a seed you had planted.