

## Jesus' Interpretation, cont.

What happens to the seed in each type of soil? Why?

## Personal Application

There are two types of threats to the seeds' fruitfulness – rocky and thorny soil. What are some practical ways that we guard against being poor soil?

This parable is a word of encouragement – not a call to be passive receivers. What is our responsibility towards the Gospel?

## Personal Reflection

If we examine our own “fields” most of us discover that we each have areas of good soil, of rocky soil, and of thorny soil. Take a moment let God reveal areas of your life that need to be given over to him.

## Parables of the Kingdom – The Sower



*Vincent van Gogh (1853-1890) The Sower, 1888*

**Read Mark 4:1-21** (See also: Matthew 13:1-23; Luke 8:1-21)

**Study Questions:** *(try to use specific words from Scripture in your answers when possible)*

**Context** *(setting the scene for Jesus' teaching)*

Where is Jesus teaching? Who is his audience?

At what point in Jesus' ministry is this parable taught?

### **The Parable – The Content of Jesus' Teaching**

What are the four types of soil that receive the farmer's seed?  
What three things adversely effect the seeds' growth?

The parable is framed with two references to hearing. What are they? What is their significance?

### **Why Parables**

Read verse 10 again. How has the scene changed? Why is this change significant?

What is a parable? What is the nature of Jesus' parables?

Jesus is asked about his use of parables as a teaching tool. Why does He say that He uses parables?

Who is the "you" that the parables have been given for? Why aren't the parables for everyone? (Be sure to read Matthew's version of the parable.)

### **Jesus' Interpretation**

According to Jesus, who is the farmer? What is the seed? Be specific (see Mark 1:15, Matthew 4:17).