Jesus' Interpretation, cont.

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

Personal Application

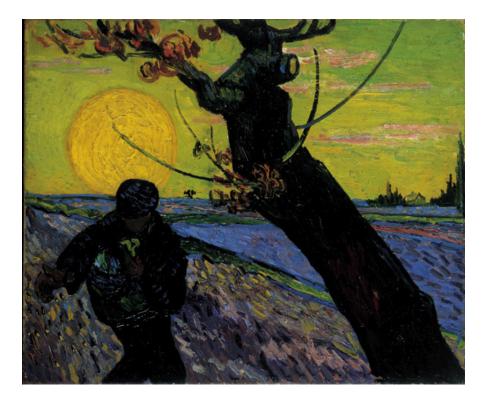
There are two types of threats to the seeds' fruitfulness – rocky and thorny soil. What are some practical ways that we guard against being poor soil?

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 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) **Why Parables Study Questions:** (try to use specific words from Scripture in your answers when possible) Read verse 10 again. How has the scene changed? Why is this change significant? **Context** (setting the scene for Jesus' teaching) Where is Jesus teaching? Who is his audience? What is a parable? What is the nature of Jesus' parables? At what point in Jesus' ministry is this parable taught? Jesus is asked about his use of parables as a teaching tool. Why does He say that He uses parables? 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? 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.) The parable is framed with two references to hearing. What **Jesus' Interpretation** are they? What is their significance? According to Jesus, who is the farmer? What is the seed? Be specific (see Mark 1:15, Matthew 4:17).