

## **GOD'S WORD GIVES LIFE ABUNDANTLY**

Since Adam's rejection of God's love, God has spoken through his Prophets to his people in an effort to get them to listen, and restore them back to Father-children relationship.

Throughout his public life Jesus' efforts were directed to do just that: to bring back all those who had turned away from God and reveal to them the Father's merciful and forgiving love. The power of his Word cured the sick, reconciled the sinners, welcomed the outcast, preached forgiveness and love for one's enemies, and brought peace to the disheartened.

To help people understand how to receive his teachings, Jesus gave the parable of the sower (Matthew 13:1-23): God is like a generous sower who spreads the seeds everywhere as he moves through the field. He gives the seed a chance to grow anywhere they end up.

Jesus explains that we are the field and God's Word is the seed. At whatever stages in life, whatever our situation, God speaks his Word, so that we may have life abundantly. He encourages us to abide in it: ***"If you love me, you will keep my word, and my Father and I will love you and make our home with you"*** (John 14:23); ***"he who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing"*** (John 15:5).

Through this parable Jesus is telling us that we have a choice to make: it is up to you and me to provide a good and fertile soil in our hearts and in our homes, where the Word of God is welcomed and can produce good fruits of love, joy, peace, kindness and unity (Galatians 5:22).

***Lord, my God, speak your Word to me: grant that I never ignore or choke it with the cares of this passing world, but give it a home in the sanctuary of my heart. Amen.***