

## THE SOWER

So much of what we read and hear about the parable of the sower begins with the analysis of the four soils. But there is something worth noting before any of that: "The sower went out to sow." God took the initiative; Jesus Christ came to earth as the consummation of God's revelation of Himself to the world.

From the beginning of creation, God's intent has always been to make Himself known. People struggle because light was created on the first day of creation, but the sun wasn't created until the fourth day. I believe the message in light's creation is two-fold. God's creating light and differentiating it from darkness, creating evening and morning, indicates His first creation was the dimension of time. But more importantly, I believe it signals His desire to reveal Himself. Light reveals things that are there but that we can't see. As it says in Eph. 5:13-14, "But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible."

After "the sower went out to sow," the parable continues, "as he was scattering the seed . . ." First century farmers did not have mechanical planters that resulted in nice neat rows of crops. They walked through the field scattering handfuls of seed the way we toss rock salt onto snowy sidewalks and driveways in the winter – very randomly. Likewise, God has revealed Himself generously and indiscriminately in creation, if we have eyes to see it.

King David saw and affirmed God's revelation of Himself in creation when he penned Psalm 19. "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies declare the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the end of the world." And the Apostle Paul goes even further, delving into God's purpose in creation when he spoke to the men of Athens about their shrine "to an unknown god." "God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out to Him and find Him" (Acts 17:27).

Agnostics claim not to know if God exists. They wonder as they consider the questions that don't have answers, the longings within that seem to have no means of fulfillment. If this is you today, I urge you to note where Paul placed the word *perhaps*. If you really want to know whether there is a God who exists, a God whose name is I AM, by the way, then you should consider reaching out to Him. If you do, there is no *perhaps*; you will find Him! For as Paul continued, "He is not far from each of us."

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