

A Farmer Who Never Plowed a Field

By Allen Webster

What is involved in Jesus being the Sower?

Jesus Purchased a Farm

He has a big, expensive farm—the whole world (Psalm 24:1; Mark 16:15). Someone calculated that there are 1,486,471,876,165 acres in the world. The average cost is about \$1500/acre (in the U.S.), so using that as a base figure, one could theoretically purchase the surface of the earth for \$2,229,707,814,247,500. As much as two quadrillion is, it is not as much as the purchase price for Jesus' farm; that cost Him His own blood (Acts 20:28).

Jesus Sows Seeds

The seed of the kingdom still possesses life-generating power (Luke 8:11; Mark 4:14). The Holy Spirit works through that Word in conversion (Ephesians 6:17).

Why is the Word compared to seed? Both seem insignificant but possess great power (Genesis 1:11; Romans 1:16). A small acorn looks harmless enough, but given the right conditions, it can grow large enough to remove a house from its foundations. God's Word, like a seed, is "living and powerful" (Hebrews 4:12; Galatians 6:7–8; cf. 2 Timothy 4:2). Unlike men's written words, God's Word has life in it; that life can be imparted to those who believe and obey it. It can generate new life. No other book can do that.

This seed grows in only one place: the human heart (Luke 8:15). There are four kinds of soil (hearts):

Wayside soil: the hardhearted hearer (Matthew 13:19; Luke 8:11–12). If a person continues in this hardened condition, he will never be saved (2 Corinthians 4:3). This is one reason it is important to reach young people before they become hardened in sin (Ecclesiastes 12:1).

Shallow soil: the stony place hearer (Matthew 13:20–21; Luke 8:13). We are warned, "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves" (James 1:22).

Divided soil: the thorny place hearer (Matthew 13:22; Luke 8:14). Just as weeds grow in a field, selfishness, lust, dishonesty, relativism, ungodly tolerance, and immorality can grow in our hearts. We can ignore them and let them choke the Word, or pull them out and save our souls.

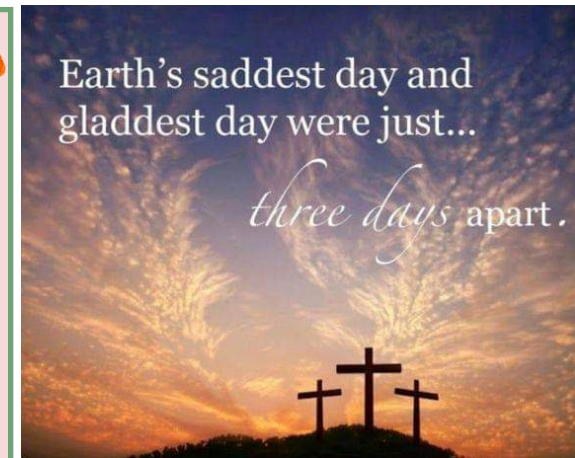
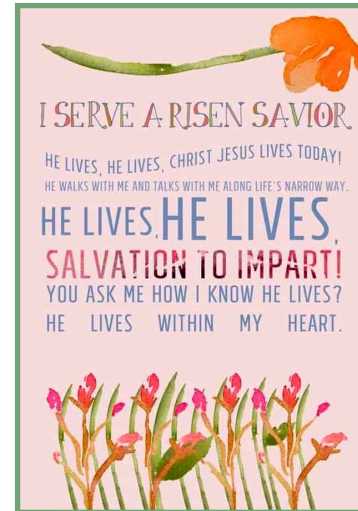
Receptive soil: the good ground hearer (Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15). The seeds in the parable are all of the same nature, sown from the same bag by the same sower. The only variable is the type of soil they encounter.

Jesus Prunes Vines

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit" (John 15:1–2). Jesus stays involved in the lives of His.

Prayers and Concerns

- ◆ All the military involved in Iran. Keep them safe.
- ◆ Peggy Johnson will have a heart cath test on April 16th after experiencing an episode last week.
- ◆ Don Luna will have an angiogram on Tuesday, April 21st, to determine blockages.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Larry Butler, Dale Strong, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Rene Blackburn, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins, Coe Hamm.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemberg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Hardy.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.



Thank you, Jesus!

Jesus Harvests Fruit

Jesus wants to pick you and me as choice fruit and store us forever in His celestial barn. Sure, most people want to live in a mansion, but a barn will satisfy me—but not just any barn. I want to live in God's barn! In the Parable of the Tares, Jesus pictures the end of the world as a harvest when weeds and wheat are separated. The tares (representing the ungodly) will be bundled and burned—lost in the lake of fire. The wheat will be gathered into the owner's barn—God's barn—heaven (Matthew 13:30). For someone who never plowed a field, Jesus surely has done a lot of farming.

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
4-4	Nichole Lane	4-7	Jim and Pat Kirkland (10)
4-6	Barbara James	Birthdays	
4-11	Vicki Smith	4-26	Mark Lane
4-14	Sailor Anderson (21)	4-27	Barbara Stevens
4-18	Lana Cockrum	4-28	Rebecca Hambelton
4-19	Logan Hillhouse		

Melinda will be serving Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, veggie, rolls, and dessert for our Wednesday night fellowship supper.

Date	Event	Details
Sat. April 11 Mammoth See flyer	Women's Night of Worship—Pre-event 4:00-5:45; Service 6:00	"Seated in Sisterhood" Melinda will be one of the participants.
Friday, April 17 9 a.m.	Meet to cook, decorate, and prep for Sat.	Please come to help if you can.
Saturday, April 18, 10 a.m.	Ladies' Prayer Brunch We are hosting!	Jane Wade Reynolds is our speaker. "Practicing the Presence of Prayer"
Saturday, May 2 8:30-1:00	Ladies' Day at Smith Chapel Church	Kara Hambelton Johnson is the speaker.
Saturday, June 13, 9-2	Vacation Bible School	Take a trip to Rainforest Falls

Thank you to Barbara Stevens for planning and all the members who helped her have a successful community Easter egg hunt yesterday.

April Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

4-5 Mark Lane
4-12 David Stevens
4-19 Don Luna
4-26 John Abraham

Communion & Closing Prayer

Waylon Strong
Titus Smith
Dana Crisp
Matt Kyle

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Don and Barbara Luna

The Family News

April 5, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***We Worship a Risen Savior and King***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us