

## Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

The Common English Bible

<sup>1</sup>That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. <sup>2</sup>Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore. <sup>3</sup>He said many things to them in parables: “A farmer went out to scatter seed. <sup>4</sup>As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. <sup>5</sup>Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn’t deep. <sup>6</sup>But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. <sup>7</sup>Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. <sup>9</sup>Everyone who has ears should pay attention.” <sup>18</sup>“Consider then the parable of the farmer. <sup>19</sup>Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don’t understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. <sup>20</sup>As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. <sup>21</sup>Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. <sup>22</sup>As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. <sup>23</sup>As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and

bear fruit and produce - in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one.”

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalms 119:105-112

The Common English Bible

Your word is a lamp before my feet and a light for my journey. I have sworn, and I fully mean it: I will keep your righteous rules. I have been suffering so much - LORD, make me live again according to your promise.

**Please, LORD, accept my spontaneous gifts of praise. Teach me your rules!**

Though my life is constantly in danger, I won’t forget your instruction. Though the wicked have set a trap for me, I won’t stray from your precepts.

**Your laws are my possession forever because they are my heart's joy. I have decided to keep your statutes forever, every last one.**

# Romans 8:1 thru 11

The Common English Bible

<sup>1</sup>So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>God has done what was impossible for the Law, since it was weak because of selfishness. God condemned sin in the body by sending his own Son to deal with sin in the same body as humans, who are controlled by sin. <sup>4</sup>He did this so that the righteous requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us. Now the way we live is based on the Spirit, not based on selfishness. <sup>5</sup>People whose lives are based on selfishness think about selfish things, but people whose lives are based on the Spirit think about things that are related to the Spirit. <sup>6</sup>The attitude that comes from selfishness leads to death, but the attitude that comes from the Spirit leads to life and peace. <sup>7</sup>So the attitude that comes from selfishness is hostile to God. It doesn't submit to God's Law, because it can't. <sup>8</sup>People who are self-centered aren't able to please God. <sup>9</sup>But you aren't self-centered. Instead you are in the Spirit, if in fact God's Spirit lives in you. If anyone doesn't have the Spirit of Christ, they don't belong to him. <sup>10</sup>If Christ is in you, the Spirit is your life because of God's righteousness, but the body is dead because of sin. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead lives in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your human bodies also, through his Spirit that lives in you.