

Jesus' Parable of Four Hearts

The Sower and the Good Seed



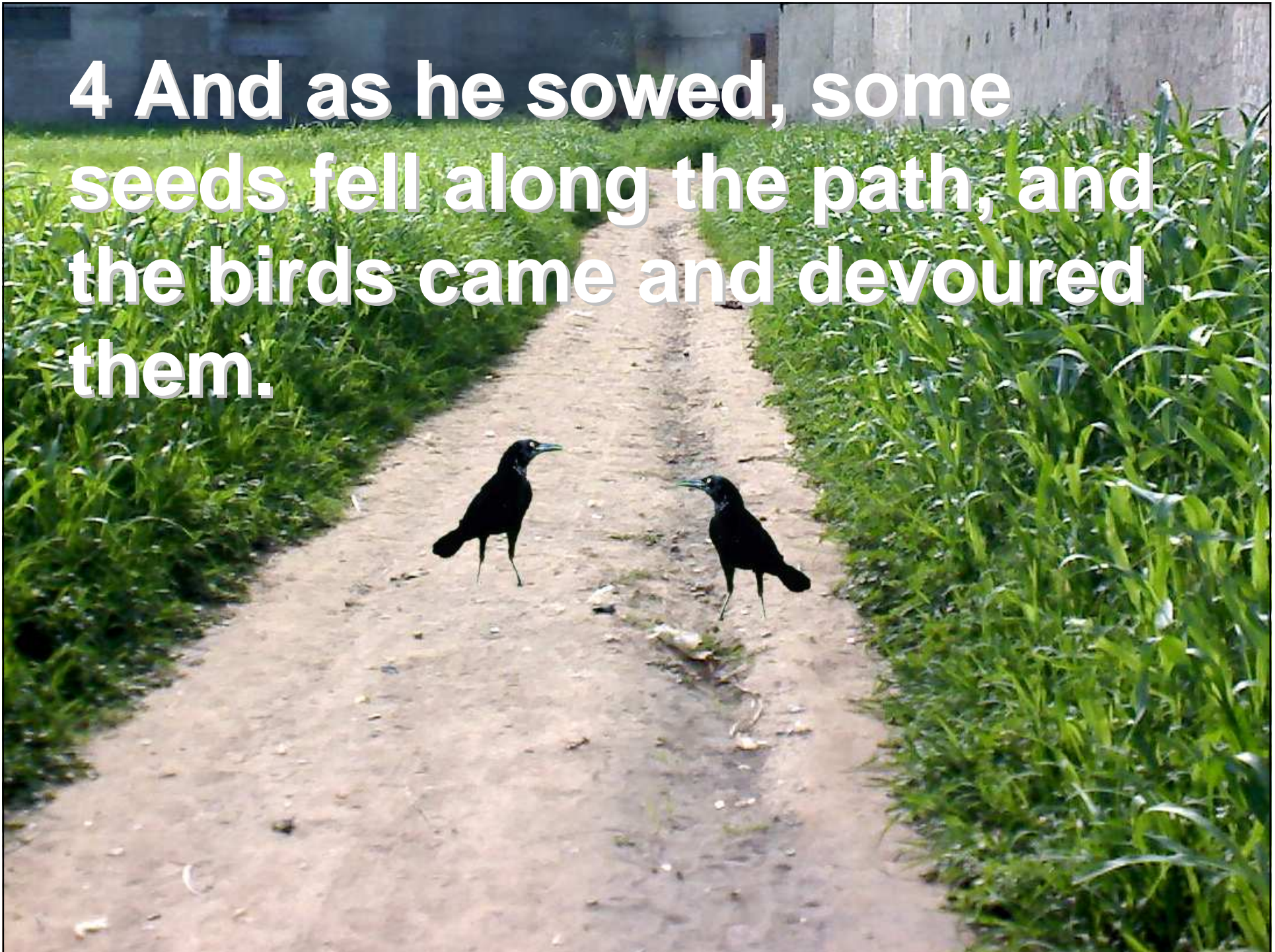
By Shad Sluiter

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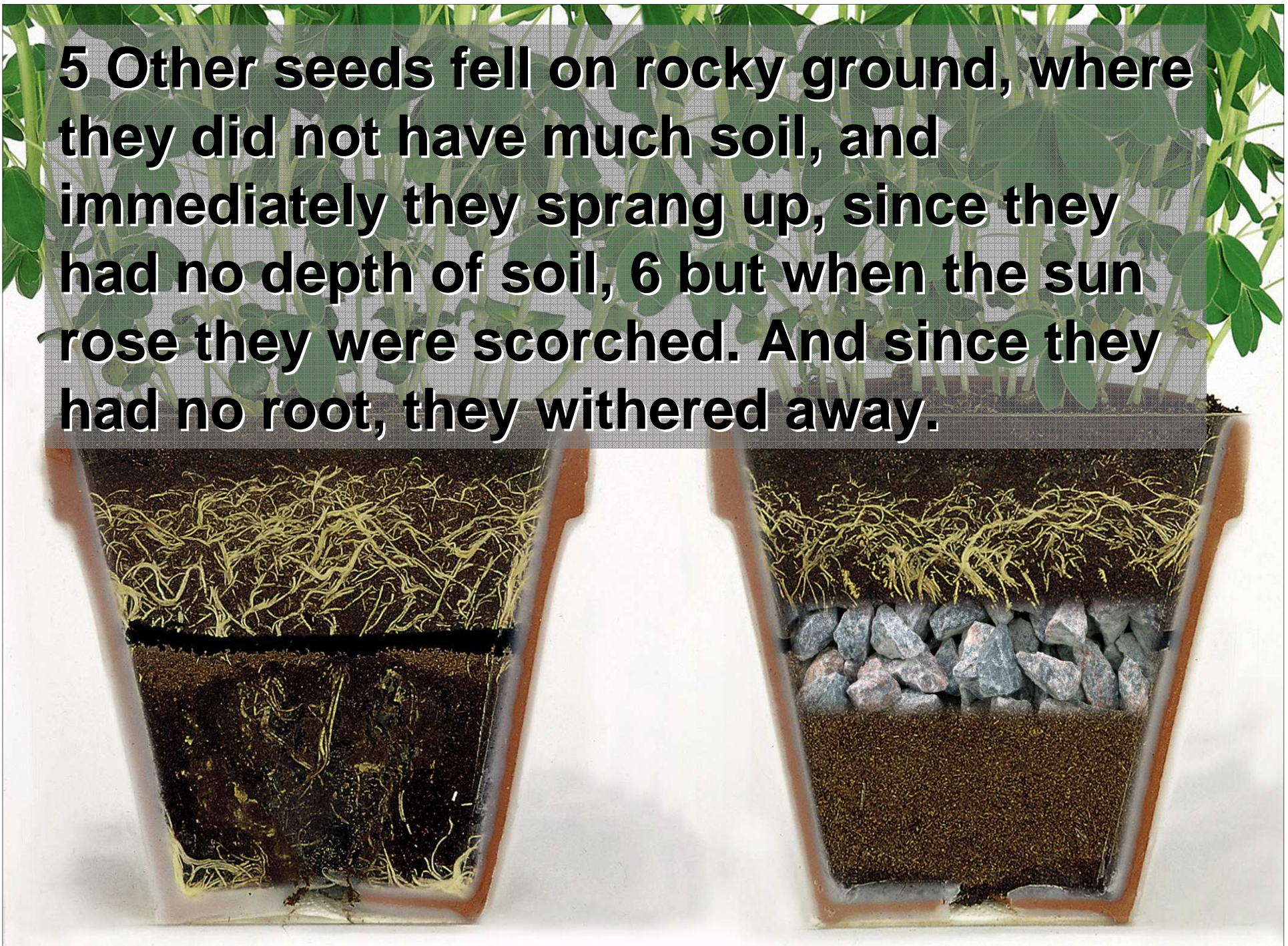


13:1 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow.

4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them.




5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.





7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them.



8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

18 “Hear then the parable of the sower:

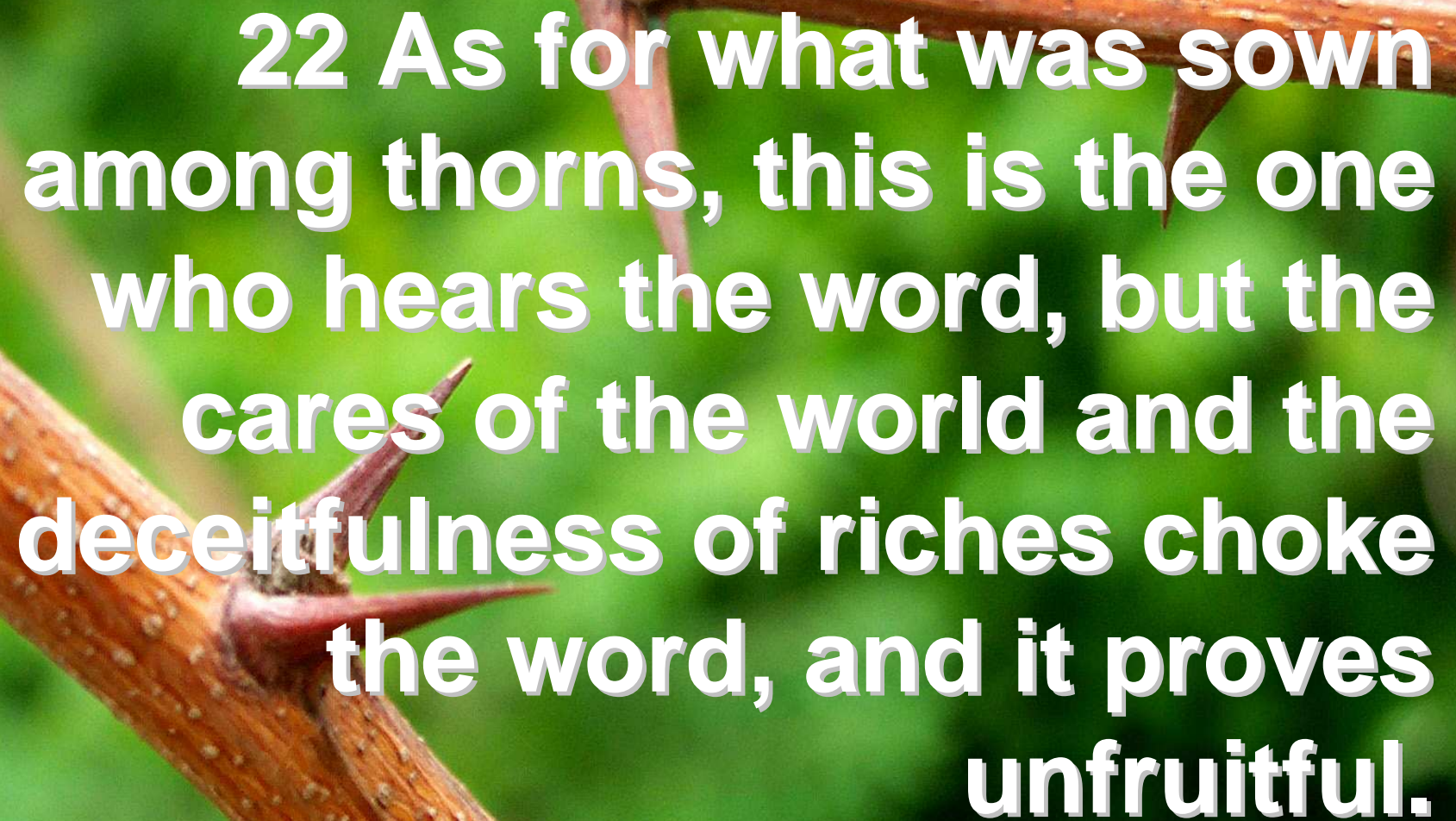


19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path.

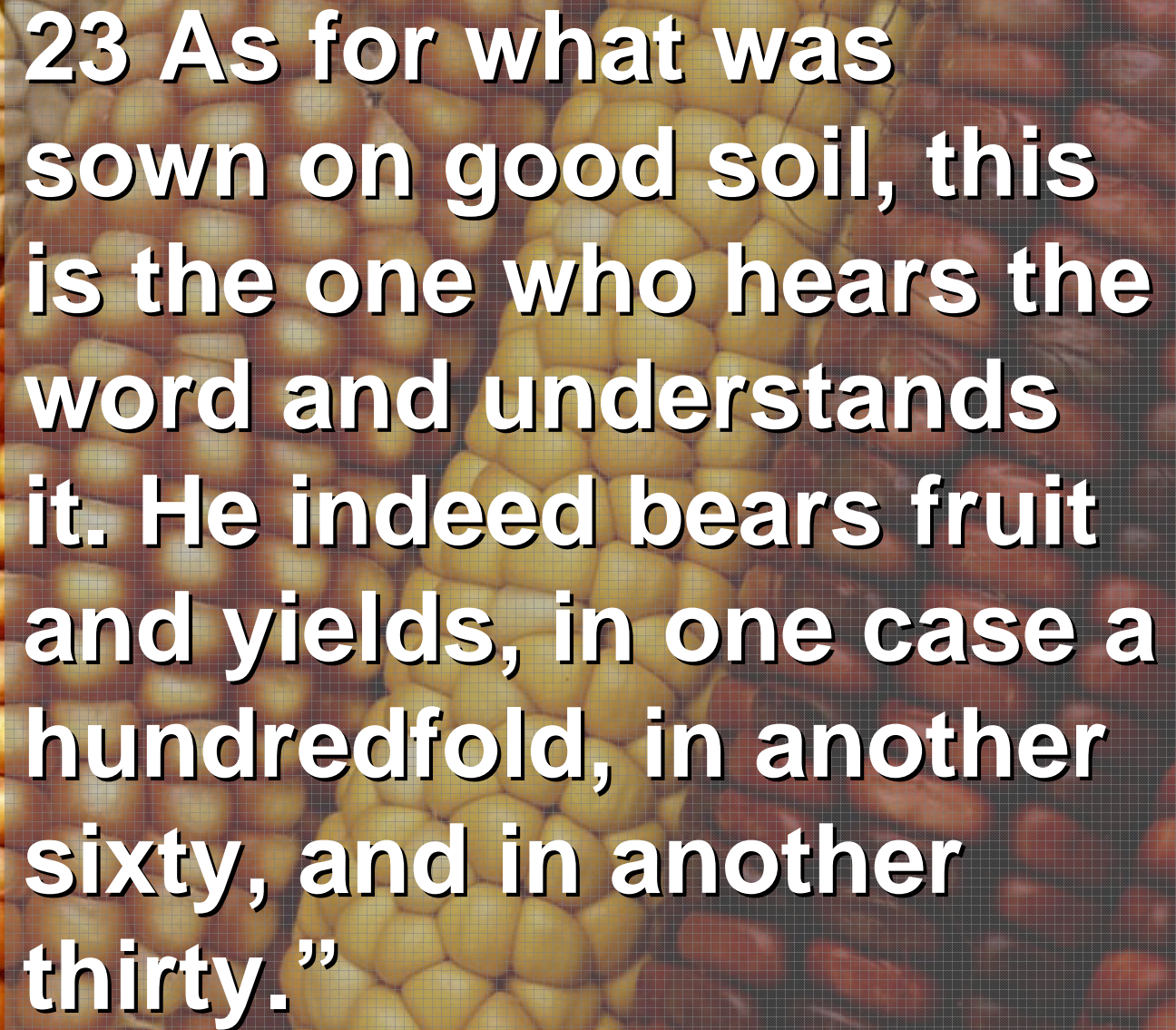


20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.





22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.



23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.”

The Symbolism

The figures

- The Seed (v18)
- The earth (v19)
- The birds (v19)
- The stones (v20)
- The thorns (v22)
- The root (v23)
- The fruit

The meaning

- The Word of God
- The heart
- The evil one
- problems
- worries
- The understanding
- Evidence of life

Soil	Difficulties that prevent hearing	Type of Heart	Growth	Fruit
Next to the path (19)	The Devil	Hard Heart	None	None
Rocky (20)	Persecution	Shallow Heart	Fast growth, but without root	None
Among thorns (22)	Daily distractions	Busy Heart	With too much competition	None
Good soil (23)	None	Believing and understanding heart	Constant and abundant	100, 70, 30 times

All this talk about God is a waste of time.

My parents used to go to church but I'm not interested. It's pretty much pure hypocrisy there.

There are many ways to find happiness in life. Don't talk to me any more about the Bible, OK?

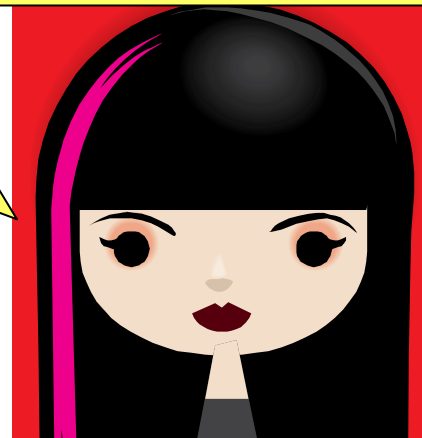


Miguel

I committed myself to God in a church campaign. I felt very happy for a while, but then I drifted away from God.

Again, I made another promise to God, but I didn't last very long in the Good Path.

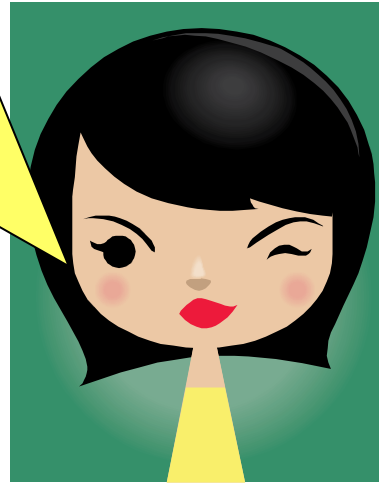
At the next invitation I am going to make another commitment, but with greater effort.



Monica

At one time I thought a lot about salvation. They talked to me about my sin and forgiveness. But I had three children. My husband works away from home. The daily chores have me really busy in the house.

I don't have time to think about my soul.

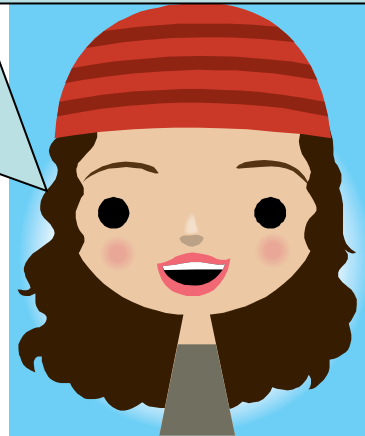


Perla

The first time I realized that salvation was necessary to go to Heaven, I was worried about my soul.

One day while washing the dishes, it came to my mind “Christ died for sinners.” In that moment I received Christ as my Savior.

Since then, I am very thankful for what Christ did for me. I am not perfect, but forgiven.



María

Quiz

Four Soils...



Miguel

1. Hard
2. Shallow
3. Thorny
4. Good



Perla

1. Hard
2. Shallow
3. Thorny
4. Good



Monica

1. Hard
2. Shallow
3. Thorny
4. Good



God

1. Hard
2. Shallow
3. Thorny
4. Good

Questions

1. Which of the soils represents saved people?
2. Which of the soils looks like it is saved, but is not?
3. The good ground “hears and understands” What does one have to understand in order to be saved?
4. Which of the four soils are you?

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The Soils



Hard
Miguel



Shallow
Micaela



thorny
Micaela



receptive
Micaela

John 1

- 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.
- 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,
- 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.