

Making Gamblers Out of Baptists
Mark 13:3-8 & 18-23

Most of us try to _____ when we can. Jesus knew this about us which explains why He told one of His most famous parables found in Matt. 13.

Jesus' Parable of the Sower came a time when it seemed ministry was out of _____. Just before this parable (in Matt. 12) we read about many incidents of rejection by people who should have been responsive to Jesus' message (religious leaders, even His mother and brothers). He told this parable to _____ His followers to know that you cannot control the outcome of the gospel seed that is sown. The only responsibility of followers of Christ is to spread the seed of the Gospel while _____ God for the _____.

The point of this parable and the one that follows is for us to know our _____ and trust the outcome to God—to spread the gospel seed with the same _____ as a farmer reaching into his pouch, then tossing seed left and right as he walks through a field. It sounds easy, but we struggle to do so because we calculate the _____ and worry because we can't control the outcome:

Yet, if being a genuine follower of Christ is anything, it is pushing to become _____-_____, _____. Faith is another word for risk-taking, for gambling. "The evidence of things _____ for; the conviction of things _____."

If you have received Christ as Savior, you have demonstrated that _____, budding faith necessary to enter the kingdom of God. But what Jesus was asking of His followers in this Parable of the Sower is for us to mature—to have our faith grow a _____. Faith with a backbone says, "I trust God's word, not _____, to guide me." I will pursue the mission He has given me to faithfully _____ with others to the best of my ability despite what may come and trust the outcome to God.

Would you do what the Word asks—scatter gospel seed with _____—grow faith's backbone and become a _____ for God.

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