

High Energy Prices



Solutions

- Increase production
- Increase conservation
- Diversify
- Invest in technology
- A new “Manhattan Project”

Human Enthusiasm

- With enough money...
- With enough smarts...
- With enough political power/will...
- With enough determination...
- With enough cooperation...
- With enough self-control...

What we've seen in Luke

- God's son, Son of Man, Person #2 of the Trinity, giving people straight talk about our situation.
- He has done astounding, flat-out miracles (raised the dead!)
- He has gathered thousands of people around him on the same cultural page as he is...

What we would expect?

- Certainly he would be more effective than any other person in the history of the world...
- Certainly everyone would agree with the truths he is proclaiming...
- Certainly all nations and powers and authorities would line up to do what he says...
 - How could it be any other way?!?

The fact that this ISN'T true should inform us of our problem

- Certainly he would be more effective than any other person in the history of the world...
- Certainly everyone would agree with the truths he is proclaiming...
- Certainly all nations and powers and authorities would line up to do what he says...
 - How could it be any other way?!?

What will be “fruitful”?

- Everything in the universe is winding down. Human comfort seems that it is doing so slowly. “Not in my lifetime...”
- Our bodies are winding down.
Relationships break down.
Accomplishments break down...
- Will any good, beauty, or meaning endure?

Christianity

- Is not simply about whether souls can escape the fires of judgment
- It is about whether God's amazing creation, and humanity within it will endure, thrive, and be of any significance for God's glory

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town
after town came to him,

Well isn't this a hopeful sign?

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him,

Jesus never seems to be satisfied with simply drawing a crowd.

- Satan tempted him to do such but he passed on it.
- Jesus often told people he healed to keep it a secret.
- Jesus doesn't equate a crowd with fruitfulness.

Luke isn't commenting on the form here as much as the intent

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable:

- Jesus is being intentionally cryptic. How would this serve him?
- There will be multiple levels to this story

Simple Story

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold."

Disturbing Climax

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold."

As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

Disturbing Climax

- The disciples were disturbed by this story and the cry and so asked him about it. (We'll get to that next week)
- NT Wright notes that the strangest thing about this story is that 2000 years later there is still no widespread agreement on what it means
 - Although there are lots of attempts

Jesus has been saying the same thing over and over again

Spirit of the LORD is upon me,
for he has anointed me:

To preach good news to the poor he has sent me:

To proclaim for the captives release,
and to the blind sight

To send forth the oppressed in release;

To proclaim the year of the LORD's favor.

Translation by Joel Green

He rolled up the scroll, gave it to the attendant, sat down,
all eyes fixed on him...

"Today is fulfilled this scripture in your hearing"

His fruitfulness has been strange so far

- A village prostitute
- Outcast widows
- A widow with a dead son
- An officer of the enemy occupation who trusted not in influence or wealth
- A tax collector, a paralytic, and a leper

At Least Two Levels

- God's work in history of undoing the decay of the world
- Jesus' participation in God's work

Sower

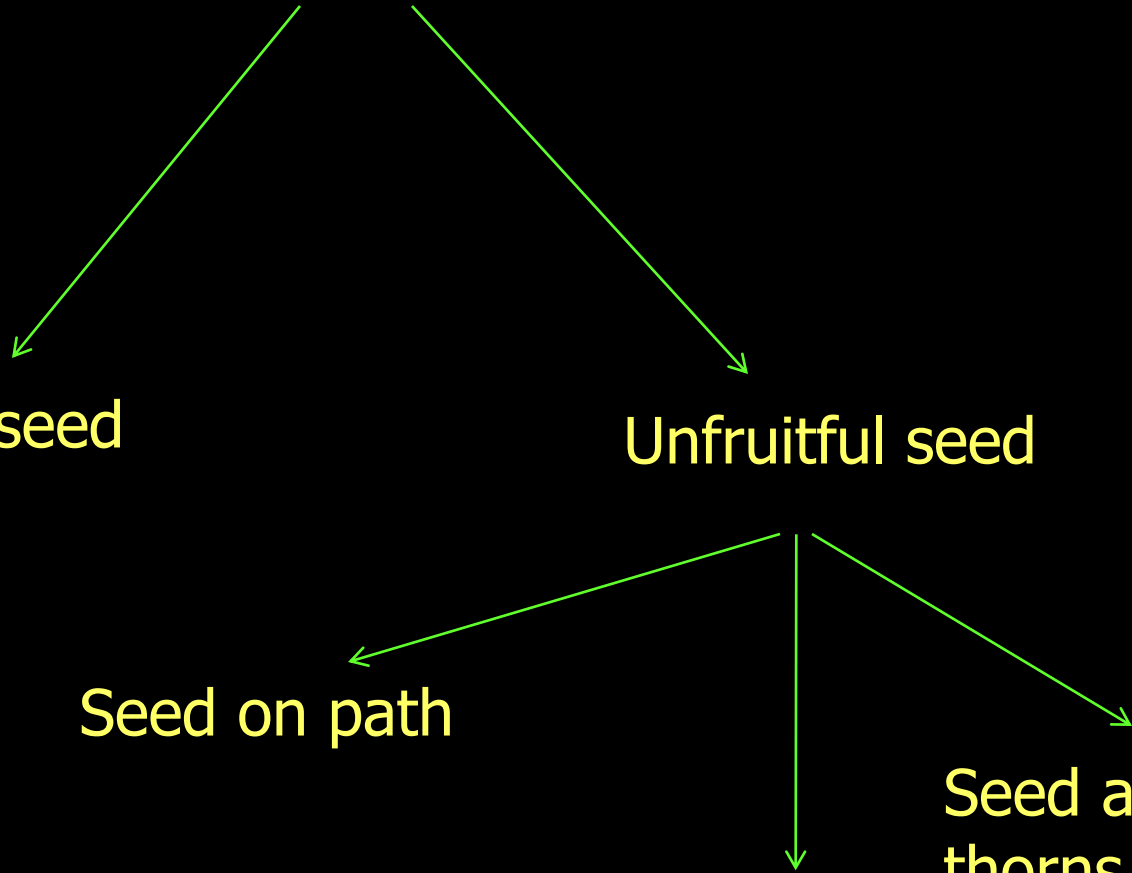
Fruitful seed

Unfruitful seed

Seed on path

Seed on rock

Seed among
thorns



Read the story as God sowing seed in history

“A sower went out to sow his seed;
and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was
trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for
lack of moisture.

Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and
choked it.

Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a
hundredfold.”

Who is the climax of the story?

Is this also Jesus' own story?

"A sower went out to sow his seed;
and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was
trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for
lack of moisture.

Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and
choked it.

Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a
hundredfold."

What matters is in the hearing

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold." As he said this, he called out, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

Our Problem

- In a perfect garden with our needs met we doubted Him
 - Is it any wonder we doubt him in THIS world?

Our Problem

- What if, in fact, everything He says is true?
 - That we are more corrupt than we care to imagine
 - That we are more loved that we even dare to hope for
 - That He has acted on our behalf and our real life rests securely in His care where nothing in this cruel can endanger it

Jesus' story

"A sower went out to sow his seed;
and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was
trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for
lack of moisture.

Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and
choked it.

Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a
hundredfold." Who is the seed?

John 12:24-26 (NRSV)

Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

Among whom has his seed been fruitful?

- A village prostitute
- Outcast widows
- A widow with a dead son
- An officer of the enemy occupation who trusted not in influence or wealth
- A tax collector, a paralytic, and a leper

John 12:25 (NRSV)

Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.

Jn. 3:16: Love the world

Jn. 12:25: Hate your life

- Conventional wisdom says:
 - Advantage (love) your life at the expense of others (world).
- Jesus says
 - Advantage others (world) at the expense of your life.

But if I do this won't I suffer and die?

- Jesus says: "yes, me first, watch me"
- Jesus also says: "The father will honor"
- Christians believe in resurrection!
 - We are like beggars squabbling over scraps in a garbage heap ignorant of a banquet being prepared for them
 - All that is given to this world in His name will produce a reward of glory in his grace that we can't speak of

Why does he cry?

What is our problem that even he can't simply talk us out of?

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold."

As he said this, he **called out**, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"

He asks you to hear, and believe Him

Luke 8:4-8 (NRSV)

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to him, he said in a parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. **Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.**" As he said this, he **called out**, "Let anyone with ears to hear listen!"