

The Parable of the Sower

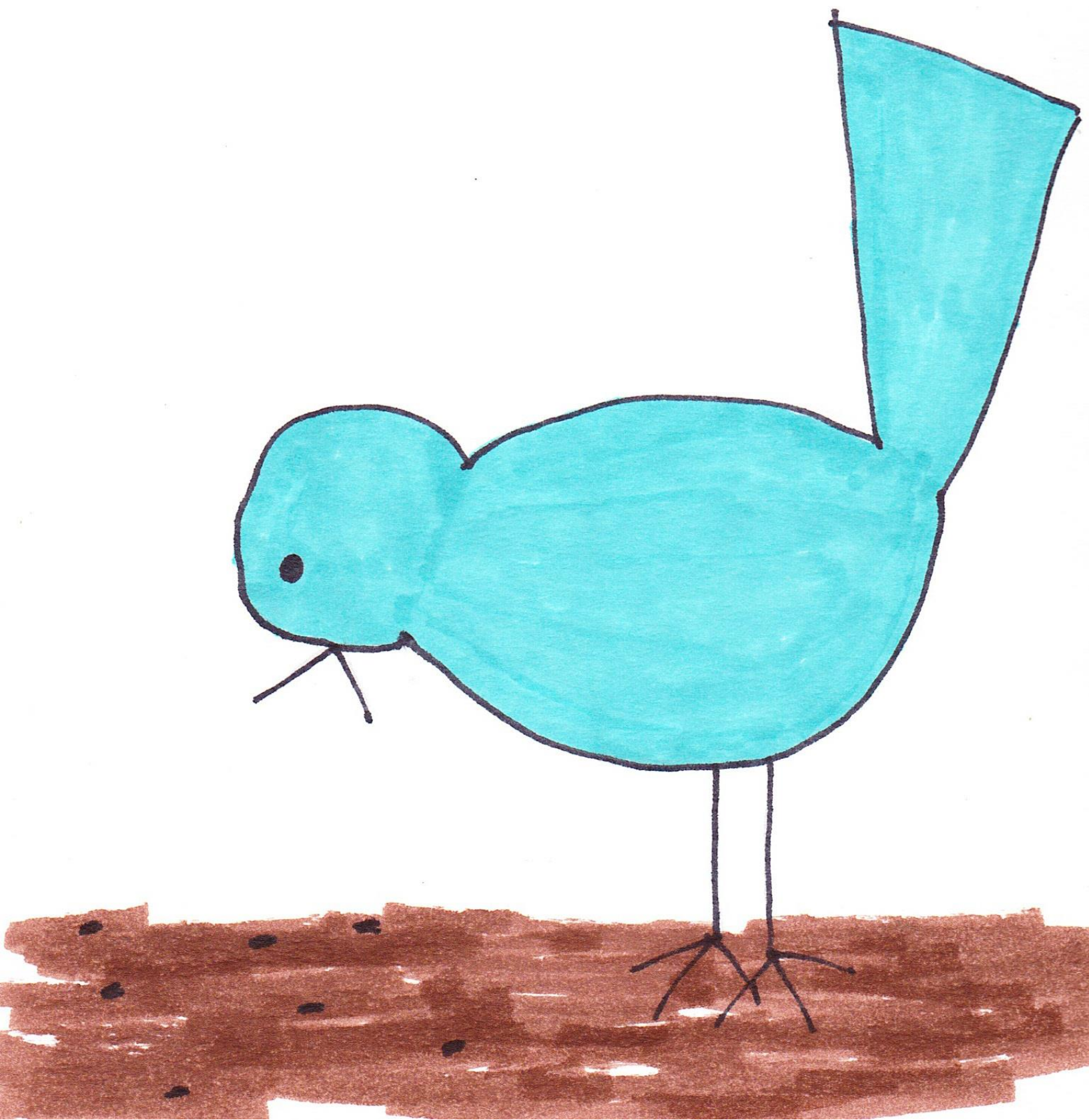
Luke 8:4-15





A large crowd had gathered around Jesus and He began to teach them.

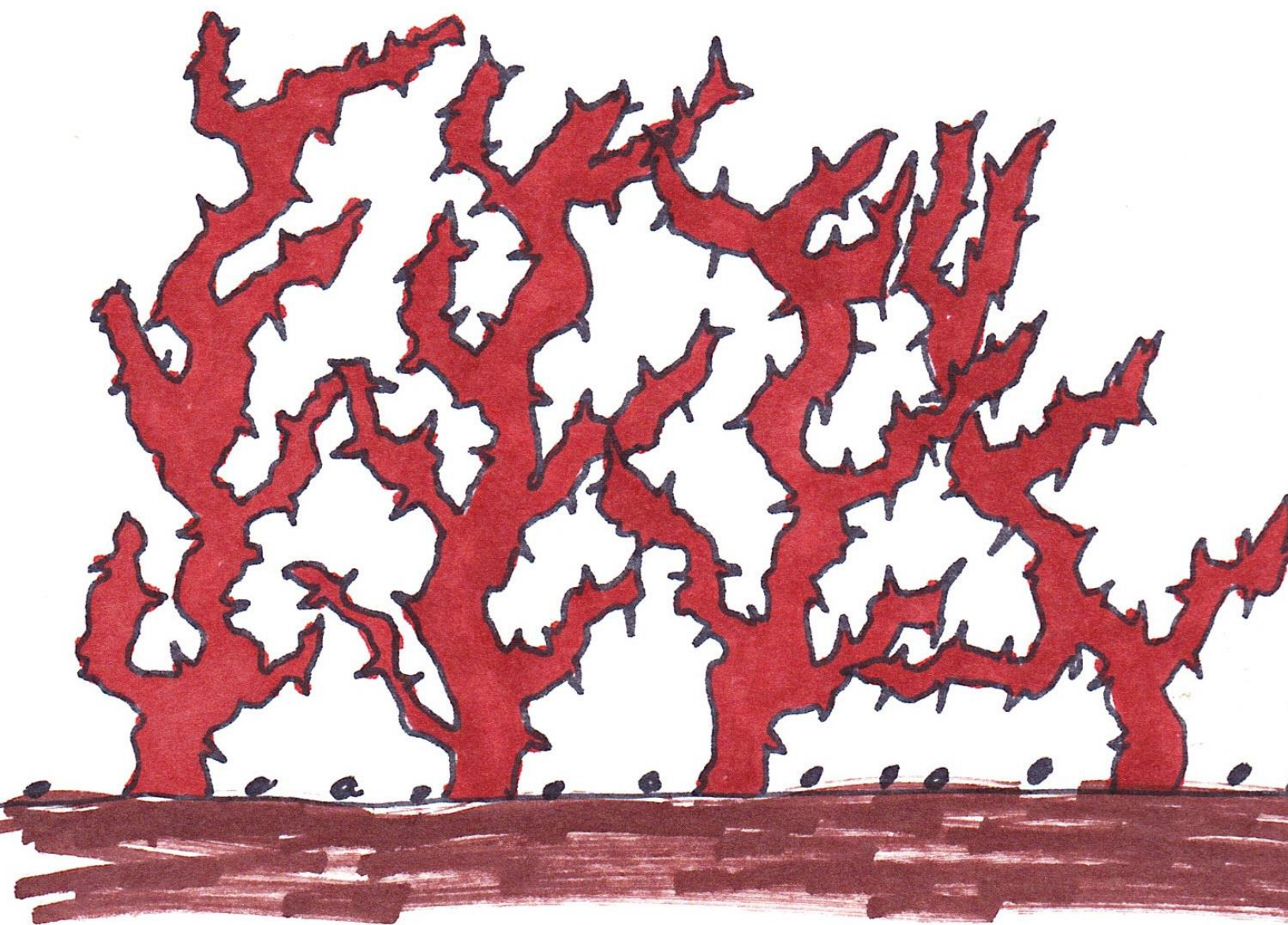
“One day a farmer went out and planted his seeds. He threw out the seeds wildly all about him. The seeds fell in many places.”



Some of the seeds fell on the path. Those seeds never got a chance to grow for birds came down and ate them up.



Others fell among rocks. They sprang up quickly, but the sun grew hotter and hotter and those plants died from lack of water for the dirt was shallow there.



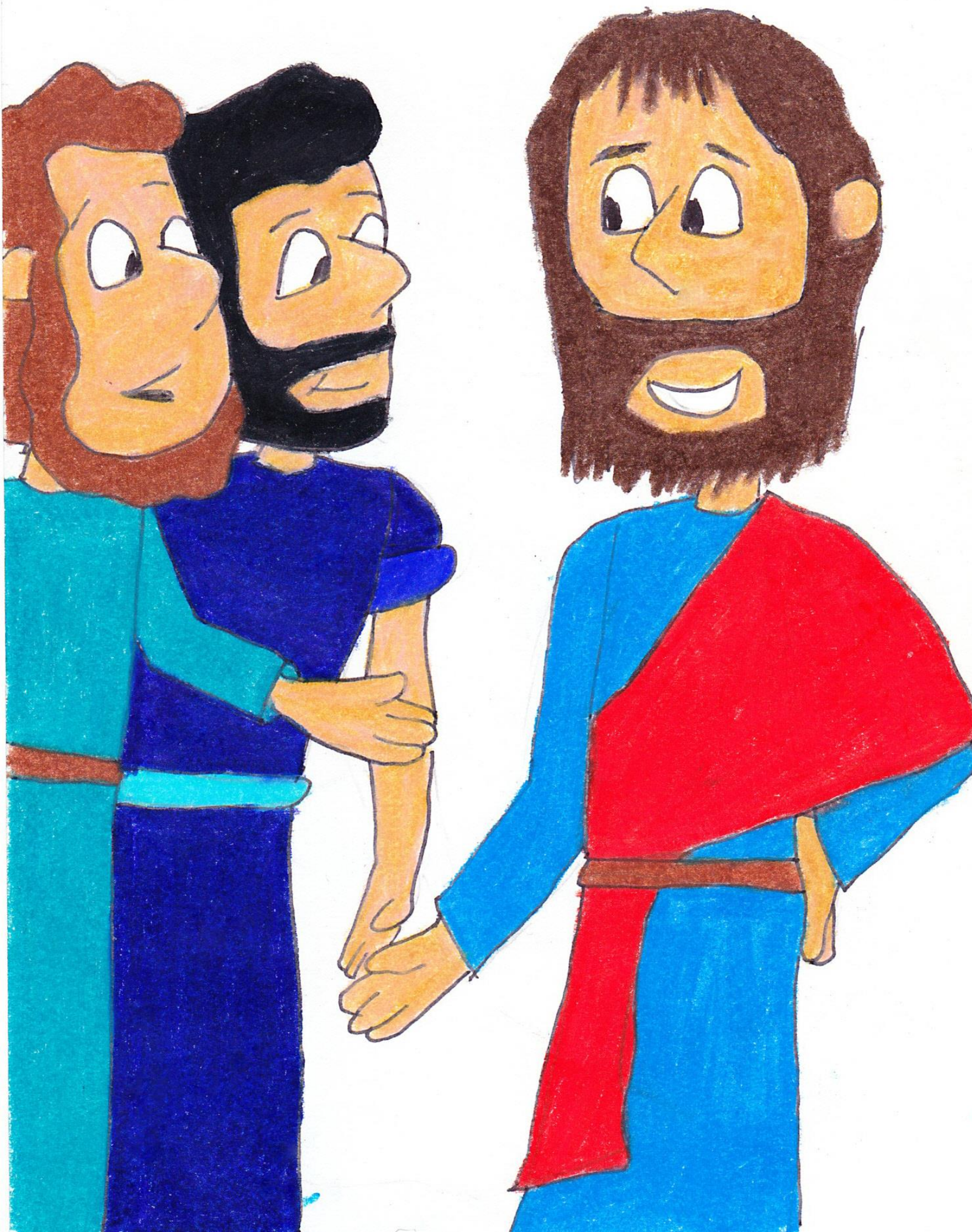
Some fell among thorns and started to grow, but it was small and weak.

The thorns grew strong and choked the life out of them.



Finally some fell on good rich soil. This seed grew and produced much food, many times over what was planted.”

Jesus finished the story saying, “If you have ears, then listen.”



Later Jesus and His disciples were gathered together. “What does the story mean?” they asked Him.

Jesus held up a seed, “The seed is the Word of God. The different soils are the people who hear it.

The path is the person who hears the Good News but promptly forgets it because Satan has stolen it.

The rocky soil is the person who joyfully hears the news, but loses hope when life gets hard.

The thorny soil is the person who lives focused on their life and is distracted by the urgency of the day to day.

But, the good soil is the people who hear and do. They joyfully hear the Word and tell others and live it.”

Questions

Younger Kids

1. How many types of soil are there? Can you name them?
2. What does the good soil do?
3. How can you be good soil?

Middle Kids

1. What does each thing in the parable mean?
2. Did the disciples understand the parable? Is it okay if we don't understand things in the Bible?
3. What other stories do you know of that aren't in the Bible that can teach you something?
4. Who is this parable for?

Older Guys

1. Read the different versions of this parable (Matthew 13:1-13 and 18-23, Mark 4:2-20). What do you notice about the stories?
2. Why did Jesus tell parables? Read Luke 8:9-10 and Mark 4:10-12.
3. Read Luke 8:1-3. How does Jesus treat the women? Are they part of the group or

separate? How do most people think Jesus felt about women?

Activities

1. How can you help the different types of people grow closer to God?
2. Try growing plants like in the story.
3. Buy different types of seeds and try to sort them by feel.
4. Make a pot from a dixie cup and tissue paper.

Online

1. Lesson plan for this parable-
<http://www.kidssundayschool.com/Gradeschool/Lessons/1sower01.php>
2. Coloring pages-
<http://www.coloring.ws/parables.htm>
3. A second lesson plan with a few crafts-
http://www.calvary-kids-pages.com/Matthew-Jesus_parable_of_the_sower.html

Characters: Narrator, farmer, 4 “seeds,” thorns, birds

Props: bird wings/feathers, leaves, pillows for rocks or seeds, sun prop

Narrator: Once there was a farmer who threw seeds out onto the ground.

Farmer: pretends to throw seeds on the ground.

Narrator: The first seed fell onto hard ground and birds carried it away.

Birds: come in and peck at ground and carry away seeds

Narrator: The second fell onto rocky ground. The seeds sprouted quickly, but when the sun came out, it burned up.

Seed: grows up quickly, have another person hold out a sun and the seed pretends to die (think Wicked Witch of the West melting)

Narrator: The third seed fell among thorns. It grew quickly, but the thorns choked it out.

Seed hops up quickly, but other kids pretending to be thorns pull it down and get big.

Narrator: The last seed fell on good soil. It grew strong and big and bore much fruit, many times over what it planted.