

**Devotion, Week of July 16, 2023**  
**Rev. Jeanne Simpson**

This past Sunday in Sunday School we looked at the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13. I thought about that parable Sunday afternoon as I went out and dealt with my green beans. We have a lot of shade in our back yard. When we bought the property 36 years ago, we carved the house and yards out of the woods and left enough open space in the back for a nice garden. Over the years, the trees have crowded back in, and all that sunshine is mostly gone. So no more tomatoes and cucumbers and squash in the back yard. We have some tomatoes in pots along the driveway, but they don't do as well. But we thought we still had enough sun for green beans.

Last year we had an OK crop – a couple of pickings of beans – enough for a meal each time. But this year, only about a fourth of the beans came up. I had religiously (no pun intended) used my dibbler and placed bean seeds every 3-4 inches across 6 rows, then we had covered the whole thing with netting so the birds and deer wouldn't get them, and we set up the sprinkler to automatically water it every three days. But not much has happened.

In the Sunday school lesson, the Sower just throws the seed out into the field, not getting particularly concerned about where it falls. Some fall on the hard path, where the birds eat them; some among rocks, where they come up but due to the thin soil they wither in the sun; some amidst thorns, that choke them out; and some on good soil, where they grow and prosper. The point of the parable is that you just sow the seeds, and let God take care of the rest – some will grow and prosper, and you might even get surprised by some coming up on the path or among the rocks or amidst the thorns.

So I took a half pound of blue lake beans and just scattered them all over our bean bed. If they come up, that will be wonderful. If they don't, I've done the best I can. Some are in the paths between the rows, some are outside the netting so the birds may get them, and maybe, just maybe, some are in good soil and will grow and prosper. I'll continue to water and hope for a good crop. If not, there's always the Farmer's Market!

*Jeanne*