

Special - April 12, 1949 2

to prepare a lesson for class and when you have a few minutes at random, do you always find a newspaper or a magazine to be the more natural thing to turn to, or are you constantly planting the seed within the field which you have? That field is your private property and nobody, certainly, will ridicule you for what you plant there. You have control over it, but what are you planting there? Are you sowing the seed every day in your own heart in order that you may grow thereby? "The sower went out to sow." We should all go out to sow but I think we should think a little more deliberately than most of us do of what we are sowing in our own minds. There is too many men in seminary and in college who think, "What do I learn to get past this examination? What do I learn to get credit for this course? What is it necessary that I learn in order to get this degree?" That's all important, but much more important should be, "What do I need to learn in order that I be the man I ought to be? What do I need to get in order that I can be an effective servant of Christ later on?" Not just to get this degree, not just to pass this course, but in order that I may grow thereby, and that I may be built up into the sort of a one that God wants me to be, who can be an effective instrument of His. Now, all these are thoughts by the way and I think important thoughts in this connection, but of course the central theme of the passage here is the nature of the ground on which the seed falls, and right here it is told that you may be able to change the nature of the ground in somebody else to some extent, that you can change the nature of the ground in yourself to a great extent, and so, while it is vital, the nature of the ground here, in connection with our sowing seed to others, it is, I think, even more vital in connection with ourselves. We notice that the first seed that He describes here fell by the way-side and it lay there and one of the gospels says it was trodden on. The other two don't mention its being trodden on but they all three mention that the birds of the air come and they take it away. It doesn't sink in, and Christ says it doesn't sink in because there is no understanding. "When one hears the Word of the kingdom and understands it not." The Word is not a magical sound. We, in our