



**SUNDAY, JULY 12TH MORNING MESSAGE**

**TRANSITIONAL PASTOR TED LAND**

**PALMA SOLA | WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**BRADENTON, FLORIDA**

### **Greetings in Christ Jesus!**

I am a storyteller. Billy Burke says that I have a story for everything. That's probably true.

But if I am correct, Jesus of Nazareth was the best storyteller of all time. Most of the stories that I tell are of real life experiences, of real live people,

What makes the stories that Jesus told is that they are timeless. Their message is timeless, though Jesus uttered the words nearly 2000 years ago.

The Parables of Jesus are teaching stories. They have a point. The same cannot be said of some of the stories that I tell. Jesus took the commonplace stories of life in the world in which he lived and made them timeless parables which show us glimpses of the kingdom of God.

The Parable of the Sower, our scripture lesson for today, is one that though most of us have never planted a crop in a field the way it was done in the time of Christ, we can grasp the image of a man scattering seeds, and the different results that come from the seeds.

I've spent a lot of my years in ministry around farmers. I've also lived in close proximity to several state and Federal Agricultural Experiment Stations, in three different states. The churches I've served had elders and deacons who were agricultural engineers, and agricultural scientists. They are some of the smartest people I have ever known, and their intelligence is a practical "down to earth" kind of intelligence. I have come to know them as persons of faith. It takes a tremendous amount of faith to plant a seed.

Over the next few weeks, we will be dwelling in Matthew 13, and learning from the timeless lessons of the Greatest Storyteller who ever lived. I hope you enjoy listening to the sermons as much as I enjoyed preparing and preaching them.

Your Transitional Pastor,

*Ted Land*