

# Commitment

the fourth sponsor meeting

## *Scripture*

**Read together Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23**

The same day Jesus left the house and went to the lakeside, where he sat down to teach. The crowd that gathered around him was so large that he got into a boat and sat in it, while the crowd stood on the shore. He used parables to tell them many things.

“There was a man who went out to sow. As he scattered the seed in the field, some of it fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some of it fell on rocky ground,



where there was little soil. The seeds soon sprouted, because the soil wasn't deep. When the sun came up it burned the young plants, and because the roots had not grown deep enough the plants soon dried up. Some of the seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. But some seeds fell in good soil, and bore grain: some had one hundred grains, others sixty, and others thirty.” And Jesus concluded, “Listen, then if you have ears! Listen then and learn what the parable of the sower means. Those who hear the message about the Kingdom but do not understand it are like the seed that fell along the path. The Evil One comes and snatches away what was sown in them. The seed that fell on rocky ground stands for those who receive the message gladly as soon as they hear it. But it does not sink deep in them, and they don't last long. So when trouble or persecution comes because of the message, they give up at once. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear the message, but the worries about this life and the love for riches choke the message, and they don't bear fruit. And the seed sown in the good soil stands for those who hear the message and understand it: they bear fruit, some as much as one hundred, others sixty, and others thirty.”

## *Commentary*

Commitment is the name of another challenge. Many people today want to avoid being pinned down about anything. They want to be casual about everything in life. This lack of commitment, while permeating the entire culture, is especially noticeable among youth. How many kids do you know who, having made a promise to do something or go somewhere, will break the original promise or plan?

Promise? It's as if they had written in an exception clause: “I'll do this if something better doesn't come along or if it doesn't get too boring or too hard.” In some teenage circles this is the accepted way of acting.

After the investment of so much energy, time, study, and reflection during their Confirmation process, it is hoped that the candidate is ready and serious about being a follower of Jesus Christ. If he or she is not, perhaps a delay in receiving Confirmation for another year should be considered. There is no harm in that, in fact the Spirit could so move a young person to wait until he or she has grown in spiritual maturity. If your candidate speaks honestly to you about a desire to postpone Confirmation, be supportive if you feel it is genuine and not just psychological “last minute” hesitation, which is a common human experience just prior to big events in life. You may be able also to act as an intermediary here with parents who are often disappointed if a postponement occurs. At this late stage in the process, the choice of the young person needs to be totally respected.

## *Discussion*

Discuss what kind of “soil” you see yourself as at this time. Discuss if Confirmation seems to be more a closure upon childhood religious education or an entrance into fuller participation in the Christian community. Does the candidate feel ready to try to follow Jesus more closely? Does he/she feel ready to be sealed and to become a full member of Jesus' family?