

Matthew's Gospel written for the early Xn Community of Jews  
who had recognised Jesus as the Messiah  
Community in Antioch

Brendan Byrne, Commentary called 'Lifting the Burden'(of Law).  
"The God who desires to heal, gather and save rather than condemn" (Byrne P8)

Matthew Ch 13  
Parables of Hope  
Sower  
Weeds growing with the Wheat  
Mustard Seed  
Yeast  
Finding Treasure in the field  
& Pearl of Great Price

Addressing Disappointment when  
things apparently, go wrong  
When the Plan isn't being fulfilled

Early Church - not  
enough takers

Today-Not enough at Church  
Where are the next  
Generation?

Parable Message  
DON'T BE DESPONDENT Lot goes wrong but  
God is the Generous Sower  
God sows lavishly- It often doesn't work-  
which is what you're focusing on  
DON'T be afraid  
God will keep on sowing and it's OK

OT, Another story of Disappointment  
God's chosen: Abraham and his Dysfunctional Family.  
Isaac and Rebeka play favourites  
Boys fight even in the womb  
Story of Deceit and Payback

Dysfunctional International Family Trump,  
North Korea, Brexit, Climate Change denyers

Our own families  
not perfect. Try as we will

Epistle Paul's Message of Hope  
Paul's Greek word for Flesh is 'Sarx' translated Flesh .Danger we think - sordid sinful sex  
but same word John's Gospel "The word became Flesh" God  
became Human- same as us and we are made in the Image of God  
Rohr suggested better word for Flesh is Ego

Yet the HOPE behind the OT story is that IN the failures  
God's people learnt to be the promised great nation  
Through the failures, they gradually became more God like

5For those who live according to their Ego set their minds on the things of the Ego,  
but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit.  
6To set the mind on the Ego is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit\* is life and peace.

Ego isn't a dirty word We need self image but our plans for  
Perfection are usually about maintaining our self image or  
keeping the world safe for us, so our we and our image of what's safe, isn't threatened

Holding tightly to our Ego image and the dreams and plans  
that we obsess about to keep us safe,  
prevents our Spiritual Growth  
Having these plans broken and dashed is painful  
but necessary if we are to become reliant on God  
and our True Selves rather than our Ego which is our False Self

Rocard Rohr helpfully calls this  
Order, Disorder and Reorder

Order Disorder Reorder.  
My Sermon prep this week

Life to Death to Ressurrection

This is How we grow into our God Likeness  
So the Jewish Christians of Antioch learnt that  
not enough people in church wasn't what it was all about.  
They grew to trust the Sower rather than their dream of all the Jews following them.  
Abraham's family learnt through their family dysfunction,  
David's infidelity national apostasy and exile to Babylon to trust God and not their National Pride  
It was a broken nation under Roman occupation which produced Jesus.. and it became the Nation that was to 'bring Light the Gentiles'

So the message is Focus on the Sower not on what's wrong  
The disappointments of Church, Family, Nations are not last word  
Deaths are the pathway to Resurrection and New Life and Peace  
So as people of the Spirit rather than the Ego  
we live in Hope rather than Fear