Matt 13 parable of the sewer simplified

[Narrator] Jesus often told stories to help people remember what he was teaching them. Today we are going to hear one of these stories with a village leader and others in his village. The stories are special stories called parables. They make you listen and ask questions, and think, and even change. You'll see how it works.

In our story are the village leader and Jesus.

[scene] Jesus and leader are talking.

[Leader] Teacher, I'm trying to understand why everybody isn't ready to come into the Kingdom of God you're teaching us about. Why is that?

[Jesus] I think that the best way to answer your question might be to take a look at life around us. You know I think that a good example of what we are trying to do would be to think about a farmer planting seed.

[Leader] I'm not sure that I understand, I've seen farmers throwing out seed, but what does that have to do with people coming into God's kingdom.

[Jesus] Even though the farmer tries very hard to be careful about where the seeds go, some of it falls in places where it has a hard time growing. For instance, some will just fall on the path.

[leader] Oh no, the paths around here have been used for many years and are as hard as rocks. No seed could grow on a path.

[Jesus] That's right. The seeds just get eaten by the birds.

[Leader] Hmmm. Could a path be like when I'm in a big hurry and don't listen to anyone because I'm just thinking about what I want to do?

[Jesus] You are very good at this. Let's keep thinking. Some of the seed falls on rocky ground. The seed starts to grow, but the seeds can't get their roots into the soil because of the rocks so the plants just wither and die.

[Leader] Could that be like when I tried to learn how to play the flute. I bought a flute and even had my friend give me lessons, but I never found time to practice and eventually we just gave up.

[Jesus] That's right. Some people get very excited about the kingdom like you were about the flute. When they start to learn that they will need to change, they just stop trying.

[Leader] Wow, I think that I can remember this better with the story than if you just told me. What else happens to the seeds.

[Jesus] Some seeds fell among weeds and thorns. The weeds and thorns kept the roots from growing and blocked the sun so the seeds couldn't grow.

[Leader] Hmmm, that might be like when I feel grumpy and angry. I don't even want to be around me then and nobody else does either. I wouldn't know a good idea when I'm grumpy if it came up and pushed me.

[Jesus] Really good. Finally, the really good news. lots of the farmers seed landed on good soil and grew. Then there were even more seeds and the farmer was very happy.

[Leader] Well, that's easy. That's like us, people who really want to be part of the Kingdom of God. One final question teacher. How do we make ourselves ready for the Kingdom of God?

[Jesus] You've got a great start. You are praying and listening to God. You are listening to the people around you and trying to help them and showing them that you love them. As you spend time with other people in the Kingdom you'll think of even more ways, I'm confident.

[Narrator] Jesus told this story many times. Sometimes he talked with just one person, like the village leader and often he told it to bigger groups of people. Because it was a story that they could remember and that reminded them of things in their lives they could remember it and tell others. That is how other people learned about Jesus, and that's what we are doing here today.

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