We have been taught in our youth about the gospel of Jesus Christ. One of these principal’s are the **Parables of Jesus**. To introduce this topic, I thought I should share a primary song that I learned when I was younger. However, I did change a few of these words to my liking.

***Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear, Things I would ask him to tell me if he were here. Seeds by the wayside, seeds of the thorns, Stories of Jesus, tell them to me.***

When we talk about Jesus Christ’s ministry, he taught mostly in parables. A parable is a story used to teach a principle in the gospel. In *St. Matthew Chap. 13*, it talks about the parable of the sower; he mentions the seeds of the **wayside,** the **thorns**, and the **fields of bounty**. So, what is the wayside? The dictionary describes the wayside as being an end to a road, or the end of something.

We then ask ourselves, what are these seeds? In my preference, these seeds are the seeds of testimony. So when I ask, how is your testimony today? You should say, oh ah, I’m continuing to grow it thank you. They then ask me the same thing. **How’s your testimony today?** I reply; it’s sure shinning.

So when the parable says that seeds fell by the wayside, it really means that testimony was rejected by someone. In the coming years, I will come across these people who may be among the wayside and hard places. I pray for everyone to have humble hearts that they may be teachable and produce a testimony of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

The seeds among the Thorns are those choked among the pride, and riches of this world. In these modern days, distraction can be included among the thorns. Our everyday lives are distracted by items like, the X-Box along with other gaming systems, music, TV, the internet, money, and other personal possessions. In order to grow and maintain our testimony’s we need to be conservative in the use of all things. It doesn’t mean you can’t have these things, it just means you need to limit the use of them.

The last areas the seeds of testimony fall into are the fields of bounty. Some people bring forth good, beautiful, and in some cases defining testimony’s. There is always room to improve our testimonies. We just need to continue to work at it by learning the gospel, and enduring to the end. We start our testimonies from our parent’s example. But there comes a time that we all need to develop our own.

We can also lose our testimonies when the seed is not maintained. The Earth has gone through many apostasies; also known as a falling away. We can also have our personal apostasy if we allow it to happen.

In the Book of Mormon, also nicknamed, the B.O.M., through the prophet Jacob, Jesus gave the parable of the Tame Olive Tree in Chapter 5. The house of Israel was likened to a Tame Olive Tree. It waxed old and began to decay. This decay symbolizes the corruption and loss of testimony before Israel was brought to Babylon. The master of the vineyard, being the lord, did not want to lose this old tree. He then labored and did graft wild branches into the Tame Olive Tree. He also took the branches from the Tame Olive Tree and placed them on the wild trees.

These wild branches were the Samaritans, Canaanites, and other manor of people. However, Jacob later tells that the entire Olive Grove became corrupt and gave bad fruit. This symbolizes the Great Apostasy. It was a time where communication between Man and God was temporarily lost. The lord being saddened by all his labor did scatter all of Israel that he may be able to save his Grove. At the end, the Grove regained its good fruit and its testimony. This symbolizes the restoration of the gospel. There were also many labors with the lord of the vineyard. These labors are church leaders, and missionaries. I am proud to become one of the lord’s laborers.

In these last days, the lord will not allow such bad fruit to grow again. At the end of the harvest, also known as the second coming of the lord, he will gather in his saints and cast down the bad into the fire.

There is another parable given by Jesus Christ who talks about a man seeking goodly pearls. These pearls were likened unto the Kingdom of Heaven. The man like many others, were actively seeking the path to true happiness and gaining a testimony. He gave his best and all his effort to get it. Luckily, we are not asked to give all our possessions away. We actively pay an honest tithe of 10% of all our income. Everything is the lord’s and we have been given material to do as we please. All the lord asks is 10%. What he does ask of us is to give 100% effort in what we do for him.

The Lord also communicates in dreams. This final parable I will talk about, comes from Lehi’s Dream. If we turn to 1 Nephi: Chapter 8: verses 2-34 it reads:

To explain this story, the answers were given in Chapter 15. The Tree represents living with our Heavenly Father again. The fruit represents the Testimony of Jesus Christ. The Rod of Iron is the word of God; also known as the Bible and The Book of Mormon. The River of Water was later said to be in a deep gulf. This represents filthiness and the land of Fire and Brimstone.

The Spacious field represents the world where we experience life and its trials. The Mists of Darkness symbolize the veil that we all have at birth. In order to prove our Faith in Jesus Christ, this veil is needed to experience life. The Straight and Narrow path that ran along with the Iron Rod is the gospel of Jesus Christ. As long as you hold onto the word of God, you will not be led astray. Finally, the Great and Spacious Building is the sin of the world. The people inside are enticing with their fine clothing, and fine drinks. But in the end, the building fell, and great was the fall.

No matter what story Jesus and his prophet’s tell, they will have a special meaning in them. We need to find answers for ourselves that our own faith is strengthened. I would like to bear my testimony, that Joseph Smith was a Prophet called by God, and that he translated the Book of Mormon. I also know that the Book of Mormon and the Bible complement each other. I have read the entire book myself and I know that it is true. If I know the book is true, then I also know the church is true. I pray that God will be with us all till we meet again. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ Amen.