



Long before we see the green shoot reaching upward toward the sun the seed is growing, reaching down into the earth, moving the soil, even pebbles establishing the tiny seedling in the darkness. Jesus is reminding us of what we already know. It seems as if this seed grows in the darkness automatically, transporting molecules of water and minerals, growing downward from the small store of sugars in the seed until it established enough to send forth the first green shoot—when it can begin photosynthesis. We know too about the surprising role of the fungi beneath the surface, aiding in this new growth. We did not make it happen—mysteriously, fully, God grows this love into abundance. In the darkness, in our own darkness, God’s love is working, although we most often, cannot see it.



We see again Van Gogh’s pictures as he reflects on the power of God’s Love to sow the seeds that mysteriously and abundantly grow, as God’s Love grows; the Sower is illuminated by the Light of God’s own self. In both cases, the seeds are scattered, and the surprise is the abundance of the harvest, the growing of the Kingdom or the growing of the way we live in relationship with one another.



One parable is not enough. Jesus talks about the tiny mustard seed which grows into a shrub that provides shade and rest for the birds. Following a prophetic tradition of God choosing the unlikely or the seemingly not prepared, the mustard plant, which can seem to be a weed, is a sign of God working.

It is a mystery and God’s own time is not our time. Even the seeds we plant seem to come up at different times....In the Gospel of Mark, God’s reign is

coming...even if we cannot see it. We are part of that mystery of God acting in our midst, even when we do not know or see it happening.

*God, give me the grace to see and give me the grace to grow in your love...*

Sower at Sunset, Vincent Van Gogh, 1888