

4 Now re-read Mark 4:1-9 and review your answers to question 2 above.

Let's describe what happened to the seed sown on stony ground. A man threw [i.e. sowed] seed on the ground. Some seed landed on stony ground. So we can say: Some seed landed on stony ground, after the sower had sown it.

We use the past perfect simple to describe what the sower did, because he did it before another past event- i.e. the seed landing on stony ground.

5 Now make similar sentences, joining these facts together:

- a) The sun became strong. The plant died.
- b) Some seed started to grow quickly. The sun became strong.
- c) The seed landed on stony ground. Some seed started to grow quickly.

6 Following are pairs of sentences. Make one sentence from them, using the word in brackets, and changing the verb into the past perfect simple.

E.g. Jesus preached from a boat. Too many people arrived. (because)

Jesus preached from a boat, because too many people had arrived.

- a) He stopped reading the Bible. His friends laughed at him. (because)
- b) He started praying each day. He heard it helped. (because)
- c) He lost his faith. He became rich. (after).
- d) He lost his faith. He always went to church. (although)

GRAMMAR

We use the past perfect continuous for actions which start in the past and were still going on, when another action started in the past. It's formed from:

Had been + verb + -ing, e.g. I had been going to church for five years when my wife died.

7 Now make up a sentence, using the past perfect continuous, which interprets the story- e.g. Mark had been reading his Bible daily, when he was promoted at work.

Examples:

- a) Steve / going to church / wife divorced
- b) Karen / praying more each day / her son / turn to God
- c) Vladimir / developing his faith / girlfriend / distract him.