

Readings used by Natalia-Nana

Matthew Chapter 13 (MSG)

At about that same time Jesus left the house and sat on the beach. In no time at all a crowd gathered along the edge of the lake, forcing him to get into a boat. Using the boat as a pulpit, he addressed his congregation, telling stories.

“What do you make of this? A farmer planted seed. As she scattered the seed, some seeds fell on the path, and birds ate it.

Some fell in the gravel; it sprouted quickly but didn’t put down roots, so when the sun came up it withered and died just as quickly.

Some seeds fell in the weeds; as it started to grow and come up but was choked by the weeds.

Some fell on good earth and produced a harvest beyond her wildest dreams.

“Are you listening to this? Really listening?”

Quotes from — Rebecca Solnit, *Hope in the Dark*

___ “The future is dark, with a darkness as much of the womb as the grave.”

___ “Hope just means another world might be possible, not promise, not guaranteed. Hope calls for action; action is impossible without hope.”

___ “Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa and clutch, feeling lucky. It is an axe you break down doors within an emergency. Hope should shove you out the door, because it will take everything you have to steer the future away from endless war, from the annihilation of the earth's treasures and the grinding down of the poor and marginal... To hope is to give yourself to the future - and that commitment to the future is what makes the present inhabitable.”