

### To Sophia, Zaki, Charlotte Rose, and Ivy

N.S.

Text by Elena Pasquali Illustrations copyright © 2011 Nicola Smee This edition copyright © 2011 Lion Hudson

The moral rights of the author and illustrator have been asserted

A Lion Children's Book an imprint of

#### Lion Hudson plc

Wilkinson House, Jordan Hill Road, Oxford OX2 8DR, England www.lionhudson.com ISBN 978 0 7459 6201 6

First edition 2011
1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2 0

All rights reserved

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

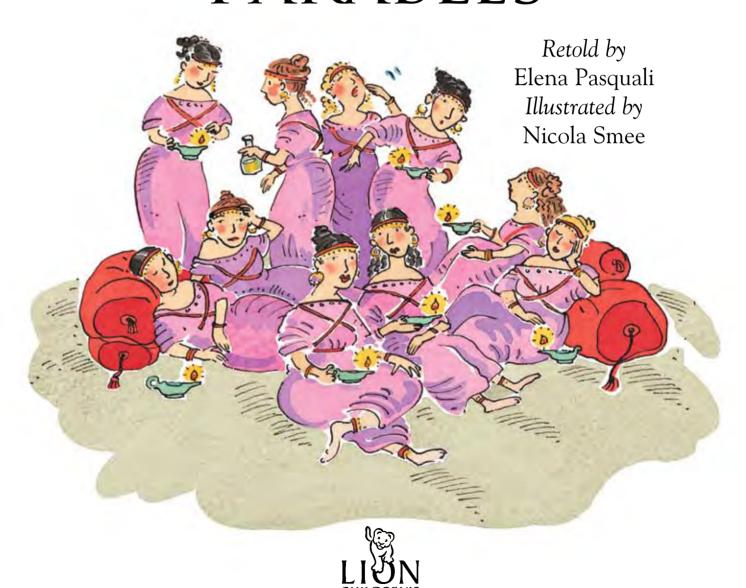
Typeset in 18/23 Goudy Old Style BT Printed in China April 2011 (manufacturer LH06)

Distributed by:

UK: Marston Book Services Ltd, PO Box 269, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4YN USA: Trafalgar Square Publishing, 814 N Franklin Street, Chicago, IL 60610 USA Christian Market: Kregel Publications, PO Box 2607, Grand Rapids, MI 49501

# THE LION BOOK OF

## PARABLES





## Contents

The Sower 6

The Merchant and the Pearl 10

Building a Tower 14

The Man Who Could Not Pay 18

The Rich Fool 22

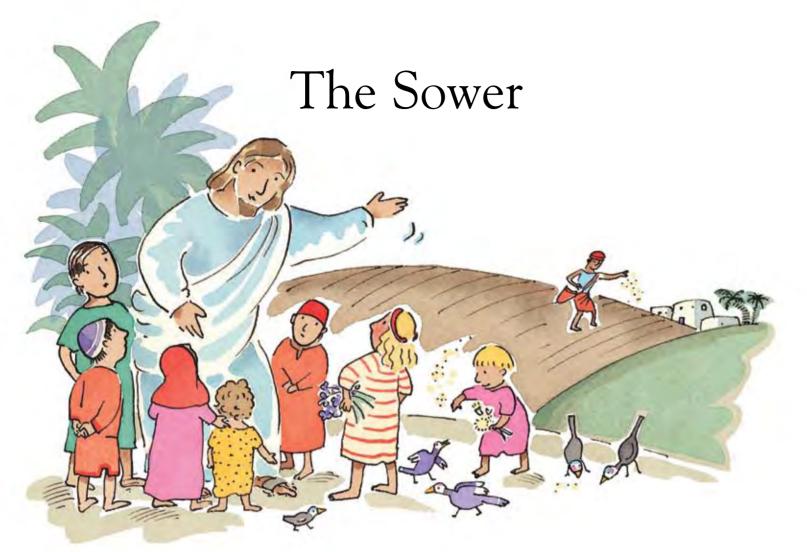
The Friend at Midnight 26

Ten Bridesmaids 30

The Great Feast 34

The Runaway Son 38

The Workers in the Vineyard 42



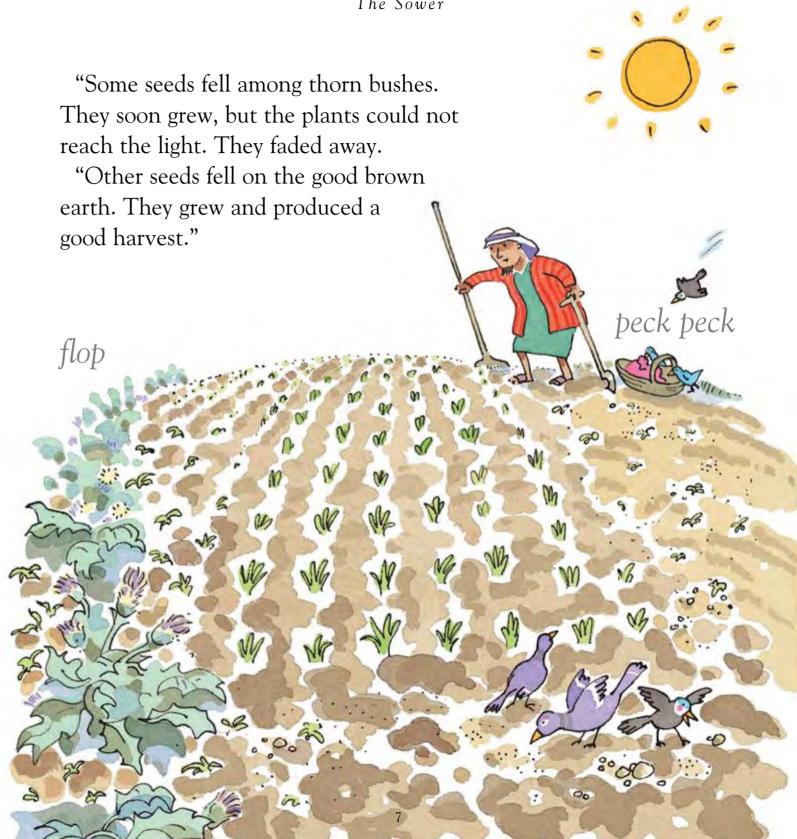
V Then the crowds came to listen to Jesus, he often told them stories.

"Once," he said, "a man went out to sow seeds. Up and down the field he plodded, flinging handfuls of seeds.

"Some fell on the path. Birds swooped down and ate them.

"Some seeds fell on stony ground. The seeds soon sprouted, but the roots did not go deep.

"When the sun shone bright and hot, the seedlings drooped.



It was a good story, but even Jesus' best friends were puzzled. "What does it mean?" they asked.

"It's about the people who come and listen to me," said Jesus.

"Some are like the seeds on the path. They hear my words but don't remember. It's as if the words were snatched away.



"Some are like the seeds on stony ground. They hear what I say. They try to obey. Then things get hard and they give up.

Gone

"Some are like the seeds among thorn Have to make money bushes. They too try to obey my words. Then everyday worries get in the way. Let's share "Others are like the seeds on good brown earth. They hear my words. They obey them.

Their lives are a harvest of good deeds."