

Seeds and Souls

The Gospel this Sunday is from Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (the Parable of the Sower). Indeed our liturgical readings this summer are rich in parables. Jesus provides an instant interpretation of His analogy. God is the sower. His Word is the seed. We are the soil. Perhaps we could substitute “soul” for “soil” and the lesson becomes even easier to understand. The sower and the seed are constants. The soil is the variable. God and God’s Word never waver. God constantly reaches out to us. God spreads God’s Word far and wide. How we receive God’s Word, how we nurture it...those are the variables that lead either to a life of fulfillment or a life of frustration.

The significant anomaly in this parable is that souls are not soils. They are not inert. Soil cannot choose to be barren. But souls can. Soils don’t make themselves a desert. But we can choose to make a desert of our souls. Souls can choose to receive the Word or reject it. They can choose to nurture the Word or starve it. They can choose to bear fruit or turn it to dust. No doubt, this parable “hit home” to those who were listening because everyone knew about thorns, birds, rocky soil... that these were all obstacles to survival. We could certainly name other obstacles that get in the way of our daily lives too. That is the bottom line of this parable. We are given one season, one lifetime to bear fruit. Our lifetime is full of second chances, but it still remains one lifetime. We can waste it among the weeds of sin. We can neglect it in the barrenness of indifference. But the harvest is certain. And our loving “Sower” is certain of us. We will answer one day for what we have done with our lives in response to God’s unconditional love and grace. Every day we must decide what kind of soil we will be... A soul flowering in loving kindness and service or a barren patch of pride and self-righteousness.

Here is a quick spiritual inventory: Are you living today actively to God’s service? Or are you not mindful of living into your baptismal vows? Are you walking with Jesus in mind, or are you aimlessly sleep-walking through life perhaps getting around to God when you find time? What part will God play in the next decision you make? These truly are critical questions that will either bring us life or will leave us in the dark. Today, will you grow in God’s love? Choose healthy and life-giving growth! Choose God! Our lives will always come upon thorns and barren patches and temptations and sin. But in faith we have been called into new life where new growth and abundance blossoms! Thanks be to God that our native soil may be found in the garden of the Lord!

See you in Church!
In Christ’s love,
Father Ron