



Daily Reflections

January 24, 2018

Scripture

Mark 4: 1-20

On another occasion, Jesus began to teach by the sea.

A very large crowd gathered around him

so that he got into a boat on the sea and sat down.

And the whole crowd was beside the sea on land.

And he taught them at length in parables,

and in the course of his instruction he said to them,

"Hear this! A sower went out to sow.

And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path,

and the birds came and ate it up.

Other seed fell on rocky ground where it had little soil.

It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep.

And when the sun rose, it was scorched and it withered for lack of roots.

Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it and it produced no grain.

And some seed fell on rich soil and produced fruit.

It came up and grew and yielded thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold."

He added, "Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear."

And when he was alone,

those present along with the Twelve questioned him about the parables.

He answered them,

"The mystery of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you.

But to those outside everything comes in parables, so that

they may look and see but not perceive,
and hear and listen but not understand,
in order that they may not be converted and be forgiven."
Jesus said to them, "Do you not understand this parable?
Then how will you understand any of the parables?
The sower sows the word.

These are the ones on the path where the word is sown.
As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once
and takes away the word sown in them.

And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who,
when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy.
But they have no roots; they last only for a time.

Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word,
they quickly fall away.

Those sown among thorns are another sort.

They are the people who hear the word,
but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches,
and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word,
and it bears no fruit.

But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it
and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus' familiar parable of the sower makes a wonderfully profound point for those seeking a deeper relationship with Him. The seed symbolizes God's Holy Word. Notice how generously it is spread around. The various types of soil represent our reception, or lack of reception, of God's Holy Word. Out of gratitude may we always be open and receptive of God's graciousness to us and receive His Holy Word with joy.

Food for your Journey

How many of us have had the experience of coming home from school, as a kid, with a bean seed planted in black soil inside a paper cup? Brimming with hope, we placed that cup of dirt on a sunny windowsill, watered it each day, and before long, an impertinent green sprout was pushing its way upwards toward the sun. No inventor, no matter how technically skilled, could invent such a thing as a seed. It's a biological marvel: pure gift, bestowed on

humanity by the Most High. The Lord is so profligate with this gift that the supply of seeds never runs out. Always, the world's plants are sloughing off new ones in such abundance that we can afford to reserve a few for kindergartners to press down into cups of topsoil with chubby fingers, for the sheer joy of watching them grow.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, Open my heart to receive Your Holy Word completely. May I spend my time this day striving to put Your Word into practice. Amen