



Daily Reflections

July 27, 2018

Scripture

Matthew 13: 18-23

Jesus said to his disciples:

"Hear the parable of the sower.

The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the Kingdom without understanding it, and the Evil One comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.

The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time.

When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.

The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.

But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

Our Scripture Reflection

Today's Gospel parable poses each of us a most important question: What kind of reception do you give God's holy Word? Are you open to it? Do you

receive it cautiously, anxious about its implications for your life as you are currently living it? Are you too busy to ponder it except for those times when you hear it while standing in a crowded Church on Christmas or Easter? God's Word is meant for daily reception, daily consumption and daily living. Given the challenges of daily life, isn't it time to give His Word a try?

Food for your Journey

Once, while traveling in the Yunnan province of southwestern China, I walked on a dirt path out of a village and made my way through a field of rice paddies on the dirt rims of the field's edge.

On this occasion I saw a woman planting rice. She was barefoot, wading through mud and water. She had an apron around her waist, and in it was a pile of rice seedlings. Slowly she walked a line, and -- taking one seedling at a time -- she literally slung the seedling into the water and mud like a dart, and then moved on, slinging dart after dart until she had to replenish her supply.

I have seen rice planted differently. Commonly, rice in southeast Asia is planted by hand. The worker stoops down with a handful of shoots and in a rapid-fire motion, places the seedlings into the muddy soil.

As I watched this woman shooting darts of rice shoots into the mud, it struck me that -- with respect to the Parable of the Sower -- there are certainly different methods of planting or sowing seed. And the decision as to how the seeds should be planted for optimum results depends on any number of factors such as climate, available tools, type of seed being planted, quality of the soil and so on.

A Prayer from the Heart

Heavenly Father, You are always reaching out to me, most especially, through Your Holy Word. Help me to receive Your Word as a gift for my life. Help me to put Your Word into practice each day and allow You to transform me with it. Amen