



Daily Reflections

January 30, 2019

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

Today's wonderful Gospel reading offers a most important lesson on discipleship. Our Lord uses the seed as a metaphor for God's Grace-filled Word. The types of soil on which the seed falls represent the various types of receptions we give to God's Word. The person who receives His word faithfully and gratefully will do great things, they will produce a harvest of a hundred fold! Please note: Jesus did not say that a PhD in Theology was necessary to produce an abundant harvest. His Grace, our humility is all that is needed.

Food for your Journey

The fruit of SILENCE is Prayer, the fruit of PRAYER is Faith, the fruit of FAITH is Love, the fruit of LOVE is Service, the fruit of SERVICE is Peace.

--Printed on Mother Teresa's "business" cards.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear God, You are so kind and generous to me and at all times. Help me to always remember that Your Grace is always being poured out on me and all that I need to do is to be humble before it. May I show my gratitude by using what You give me to the best of my ability and for Your greater glory. Amen