July 24, 2019

Scripture

Matthew 13: 1-9
On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some 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. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus teaches His disciples about the life of faith while using imagery from the world of farming. The seed, God’s Word, is distributed very generously and widely (universal in scope). Where the seed lands represents the various
responses we give to God’s word. The parable teaches us that we can never blame God for being silent towards us. The issue lies in how we respond to His generosity. Are we open and receptive to Him or do we shut Him out due to an unnecessary focus on our own agenda? Please remember, our salvation will be determined by the quality of our response to God’s goodness.

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**Food for your Journey**

It is not a matter of whether life dealt you a good or bad hand with "realities" that are rich or rocky in soil. "It is the choices you make in your reactions to deal with them that determine the quality of your life. Most of the time you don't get to select your challenges [i.e. realities]; sometimes your challenges are the direct consequences of previous choosing. You may not even like any of the available options. However, you never lose the freedom and responsibility to choose and then honor that choice.

"When these choices are determined by virtue and values, you bring purpose, meaning and integrity to your life. When your choices are determined by amoebic instinct ...."


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**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, You are always so generous to us. You show the depth of Your generous love by sending Your Son Jesus Who witnessed to You. He was Your word made flesh. May I always be receptive to every word uttered by Jesus and may I put His words into practice. Amen