

## 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year “A”

### The Seed that Fell on Good Soil

A Sower one day went forth to sow;  
His seed was the word of life,  
The field that He sowed was the world of men  
Where the briars of sin grow rife.

What seed by the wayside chanced to fall  
The birds of the air devoured,  
And that which fell in the barren soil  
In the heat of the day expired.

'Mid thorns and tares some grew for a time,  
Tho' weakened, and warped, and lean,  
But harvest time found them withered and dead  
For fruitless their growing had been.

But the seed that fell in the fertile soil  
Bore fruit, some an hundred fold;  
And the heart of the Master sang for joy  
As He garnered His sheaves of gold.

In your heart, my friend, the seed is sown;  
Oh, what will the harvest be,  
A blackened field at the harvest time,  
Or the joys of eternity?

Oh, think, dear friend, of the harvest time—  
It may be tonight for you—  
Will you yield your heart to the Master's call?  
The Saviour—is speaking—to you! (Poem – The Sower by James G. Arcus, Courtesy Moody Monthly)

The parable of the sower captures the essence of life on earth. It is no wonder the parable is numbered among the most popular parables of Jesus. In this parable, we are not only reminded of who we are, we are also called to embrace who we are called to become – the sowers of seed.

The grace of God is manifest in the sowing, not in the reaping of the seed. Whenever we sow a seed, a life is blessed. It could be sowing the actual seed during the farming season, saying a kind word to someone we meet or extending a hand to help someone in need. Whichever way we look at it there is grace in the sowing of seed.

God is the sower. The world is the field where the seed is sown. The seed is the word of God – from the spoken word to the life of each one of us because it is by His word that we were created. After God created the world, God pronounced it good. God did not say that the world was perfect. It goes to mean that the world has within it the inherent possibilities of goodness.

Even when the world is not perfect, there is still the possibility of living a good life in the world. These possibilities are not placed on the same pedestal for everyone; hence, there is always room for improvement.

God is a good farmer par excellence. If in the sowing of seed, God allowed some seed to fall on the path, it means that there is the possibility of the seed growing and producing fruit on the path. It may be difficult to believe that the seed that fell on the path, which could be easily eaten by the birds of the field, still have within them the possibilities of bearing fruit but only after a hard effort.

The seed that fell on rocky soil was not thrown there to be simply scorched by the heat of the sun. The master sower knows that it is not going to be easy for it to grow and bear fruit on a rocky soil, yet, the seed have within them the possibilities of bearing fruit like the ones that fell on a good soil but only after making effort to weather the storm or the challenges facing it.

Likewise with the seed that fell among thorns. Although faced with the challenges of being choked by the thorns, yet, these seed have within them the possibilities of bearing fruit. It goes to mean that our world is a world of possibilities. As it is often said, we should become a reflection of what we would like to see in others. If you want love, give love, if you want honesty, give honesty, if you want respect, give respect. You get in return, what you give.

The parable of the sower is after all said and done a story with a happy ending because some seed fell on good soil and produced an abundant harvest. The seed that fell on good soil though had all the advantages still need to make some effort to produce a hundred fold. As the saying goes, to whom more is given, more will be expected.

It is easy for us to think that since the seed fell on a good soil, everything was honky dory for them. Let us remember too that it takes a lot of effort to carry the weight of a hundred fold of seed. The bottom line is that even when our conditions in life are different, we still have within us the possibilities of achieving greatness. God's reward does not depend on the advantages we received but on the efforts we make in life.

As it is often said, "If you want change then make changes, if you want to be treated well then treat others well, if you want to be loved then love others. Don't expect to get something when you aren't doing it yourself. Too many people expect perfection from others yet fail to give out what they expect."

We are the seed of God's word. God expects us to be fertile and fruitful (Is 55:10-11). Whether we are sowing in the field or serving others, the act of sowing should always be seen as a serious business for it is through it that the story of our life will be told. "In this earth, in this soil, in this pure field let's not plant any seed other than seeds of compassion and love." Rumi

Imagine how beautiful our world will be should we decide today to sow the seed of love, justice and peace, bearing in mind that as ambassadors for Christ, God wants to use us to make other people happy. And the happier we make others, the happier we will become. And, if you do not like what you are reaping in the world today, let us begin now and not tomorrow to change what we are sowing for whatever one sows that shall he reap if not in this life but in the world to come.