

15A SML 2020
MT 13:1-9

This Sunday's gospel of the sower and the seed presents four types of hearers. Three include either internal or external conflicts, that take away the passion for faith. The last hearer is the one who receives the seeds of faith, and because he is passionate about his faith, produces yields of 100 or 60 or 30 fold.

Passion is a word you rarely hear anymore. The only time we hear the word "passion" is in a movie or a modern novel. Passion was born on the fringes of the Roman Empire, on a hill called Calvary on a Friday called Good. That passion, or should I say, His passion was Love, Fire, and Enthusiasm, its first zenith appearing seven weeks later on Pentecost as tongues of fire. Subsequent zeniths appeared as martyrdom, mysticism, missionary activity that swept away Greek moderation and the Roman indifference to truth.

Men were so driven by their passion for faith, they left their homes to spread the Good News. Young women were so absorbed by their passion for faith in Jesus Christ, they set their hearts on a Divine Husband and became brides of Christ. From generation to generation, this torch of passion for the

faith was passed on, and millions have so loved their Blessed Lord that all the passionate talk of possessing the treasures of earth could not make them turn from their passion for faith.

- ✓ This Passion made some want to give everything to the Divine Lover, and thus was born the vow of poverty.
- ✓ This Passion made some want to give their best to God and since the best is not in the body but in the soul, there was born the vow of chastity.
- ✓ This Passion made some want to give their will to the will of Almighty God, and this was born the vow of obedience.

Although this Passion still dominates some of the faithful, as far as the world is concerned, the Passion for faith has now passed out of existence; our fires have gone out. The Western World has become secular, if not atheistic, in a vague sort of way. Even though the broadminded no longer go to Church, they don't quite agree that the cathedral should be made into a museum. Even though they don't want prayer in public school, they still were fine with speaking about freedom of religion. Even though they don't want to adore God, they felt that if someone did, well, that's his choice.

There is no more Passion, Zeal, Fire, but rather broad-mindedness, which is now considered the greatest of all virtues. The man who can't make up his mind about anything is

called broad, and the man who has discovered a few principles to guide his life is called narrow.

Tolerance has degenerated into indifference to the truth, as right and wrong, good and evil are given equal footing.

Once the world, like Pontius Pilate, gives:

- ✓ Jesus and Barabbas,
- ✓ virtue and vice,
- ✓ good and evil

an equal hearing, and allows a vote to determine which will be chosen, there is no need to count the ballots. Why? Because choosing good will invariably lead you to the Cross.

G. Studdert Kennedy compares the Christ of Golgotha to Christ in the modern, broadminded city of Birmingham, England, but substitute any city, including Medford, NJ, for Birmingham:

When Jesus came to Golgotha, they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary;
They crowned Him with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed Him by.

They would not hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die;
For men had grown more tender, and they would not give Him pain,

They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do,"

And still it rained the winter rain that drenched Him through and through;

The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,

And Jesus crouched against a wall, and cried for Calvary.

The Crucifixion was more bearable than the broad-mindedness which was neither hot nor cold, which God said He would vomit from His mouth. (REV 3:16)

But the world cannot live without fire and passion. That is why Europe and Russia at the end of WWI adopted totalitarianism. They had a passion for "something," but since religion had seen its day, they chose totalitarianism: Nazism in Germany, Fascism in Italy, and Communism in Russia.

We are finding here in the West that man has a passion for "something," but since religion has seen its day, what will the West choose? No civilization can long remain indifferent to

religion. History has shown that eventually men will either love it or hate it, and if men hate religion, it will be replaced by “something.” China chose Communism, and is not the entire world paying for that decision?

Totalitarianism is a protest against:

- ✓ a milk and cookies liberalism,
- ✓ a spineless indifference to causes,
- ✓ a failure to recognize that nothing was evil enough to hate,
- ✓ and nothing was good enough to die for.

The people of Europe and Russia wanted something they had lost in giving up the Church; without ever knowing it, they wanted dogmas, infallibility, discipline, authority, obedience and sacrifice. They wanted relief from the boredom that comes from a false sense of freedom or license, so they flocked to a dictator. They wanted pilgrimages, but since they wrecked the Churches of the Blessed Mother, their places of pilgrimage were factories.

Totalitarianism gave the European man a religion:

- ✓ a counter church to supplant THE Church,
- ✓ a faith to fight THE Faith;
- ✓ the gospel of Marx to replace the Gospel of Mark;
- ✓ the god of earth for the God of Heaven,

- ✓ a new mystical Body with its visible head not in Rome but in Moscow,

infallible when he speaks not on faith and morals for they have no morals, but on matters of politics and economics. While Europe and Russia were right in wanting a change, they were wrong in what they chose. The prodigal son was right in being hungry. He was wrong to eat the slop of pigs.

So why bring all this up today? Well, Communism is alive and well across the Pacific and that's a concern. It's a huge concern. And the other reason is what has happened in this country this past month.

Racism is wrong. No one defends racism. To peacefully protest racism is a moral response, at a predetermined time and place made in conjunction with the local authorities. This way, the accident victim in an ambulance can be assured he or she will make it to the hospital on time.

However, rioting is not a moral response, and no one should defend it. Rioters have a social conscience to "allegedly" right the wrong of others, but they have no individual conscience to right their own. They organize to combat the alleged wickedness of others, but dispense themselves from all personal obligation to morality, conscience

and God. As long as they fight for the underprivileged, they feel privileged to do as they please. Thus they feel a merciless aggression against wrong which fills up the void made by the loss of the Passion they should have for faith, but since they do not have faith in God, their aggression only increases the world's disorder and their fires burn their neighbors' houses and businesses, and not within their own hearts.

A country without the passion for faith is the state of existence described by Our Blessed Lord's Parable of the Empty Home:

When an unclean spirit goes out of a person it roams through arid regions searching for rest but finds none. Then it says, 'I will return to my home from which I came.' But upon returning, it finds it empty, swept clean, and put in order. Then it goes and brings back with itself seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they move in and dwell there; and the last condition of that person is worse than the first. Thus it will be with this evil generation. (MT 12:43-35)

Without our Passion for Faith, we are left with man as the measure of all things. And man as the measure of all things is disillusioned. Our country is discovering it cannot exist without a religion and without God. Our country is learning that neutrality and indifference and broad-mindedness is not

working. We need to look for God. It's the choice between what's True and what's false.

Those of us who have found God, who have a Passion for Faith, it is up to us to share what we have, which is an inner-peace nonbelievers don't have. I can't imagine one rioter went home to bed, if they have a bed to sleep in, and slept soundly. If they did, they have no conscience, as I said earlier. It's up to us share our passion for faith in Jesus Christ. Why? Because He is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

They may burn with hate to build the city of man on the ruins of the City of God, but we must burn with love for them, and pray among the ruins of the inner cities across this nation, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they did."