

OUR GOSPEL READING TODAY IS ABOUT THE FARMER SOWING SEED.

PROBABLY, IT COULD BE MORE APTLY NAMED AS THE CARELESS SOWER.

HE IS THROWING SEED EVERYWHERE.

HE WOULD KNOW THAT NOTHING WOULD GROW ON A TRAVELLED ROAD.

IT WOULD LITERALLY BE AN EASY TARGET FOR THE BIRDS TO SWEEP DOWN AND DESTROY IT
IN THEIR OWN HUNGER.

WE'RE TOLD THAT SOME FELL ON ROCKY GROUND.

ANOTHER BAD PLACE.

THE HEAT OF THE DAY WOULD DESTROY IT.

IT WOULD ALLOW THE SEED TO GROW FOR A WHILE BEFORE IT DIED.

THERE WAS SEED THROWN IN AMONG THE THORNS.

ANOTHER PLACE WHERE IT HAD NO CHANCE OF GROWING AND REACHING ITS POTENTIAL.

ONLY A PART OF IT, FINALLY, WOULD LAND IN A PART OF THE FIELD WHERE IT WAS ALLOWED TO
FLOURISH.

IT'S A PARABLE THAT DEMANDS REFLECTION, IT DEMANDS THAT WE TAKE IT DEEPER.

IT DEMANDS THAT WE SEE IT FOR WHAT IT IS SAYING.

FIRST OF ALL, OUR GOD, AS IT HAS BEEN SAID MANY TIMES,

IS A GOD OF SECOND CHANCES.

FOR THE LEPERS, FOR THE BLIND, FOR THE INFIRMED, FOR THE DYING AND ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE

WHO WERE LOOKING BUT HAVING TROUBLE FITTING THEIR LIVES INTO A LIFE OF FAITH,

AND A LIFE THAT WAS STRUGGLING TO FIND THE PLACE, TO FIND THE WORDS, TO FIND THE

ENVIRONMENT WHERE THEY COULD GO BEYOND THEMSELVES,

INTO A LIFE OF FULFILLMENT.

GOD IS NOT THE CARELESS SOWER.

THE PARABLE COULD ALSO BE CONSTRUED TO SAY THAT ONLY A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF PEOPLE ARE DESTINED TO BE SAVED.

MOST WOULD NOT EVEN SURVIVE FOR ONE OF THE KINGDOMS SEASONS.

MOST WOULD NOT EVEN HAVE A CHANCE.

I BELIEVE THE CHALLENGE HERE, IS NOT WHAT GOD WOULD DO WHEN WE CAME INTO THE WORLD.

ITS ALL ABOUT WHAT WE DO WITH THE LIVES WE'VE BEEN GIVEN.

AND HOW DO WE JUDGE OTHERS.

DO WE SOMETIMES SAY, OF COURSE THAT PERSON TURNED OUT WRONG?

THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE, SO ITS NOT SURPRISING.

DO WE SAY, A PERSON HAD A CHANCE,

BUT EVERYTHING WAS STACKED AGAINST THEM.

AND EVEN, AND THIS IS ALSO AND UNFAIR JUDGMENT.

THAT PERSON MADE IT BECAUSE OF ALL THE HELP HE OR SHE HAD.

FROM THE START, EVERYTHING WAS PROVIDED.

AND THOSE WHO EXPERIENCE IT, OFTEN FEEL ENTITLED TO WHAT THEY WERE GIVEN FREELY.

IT'S A PARABLE ABOUT US, AND OUR ATTITUDES, AND WILLING WE ARE TO GIVE OTHERS A SECOND CHANCE.

THAT IS WHAT GOD DOES. AND IT'S USUALLY MORE THAN ONLY THE ONE SECOND CHANCE.

IF GOD IS A SOWER THEN HE WOULD MOVE THE SEED THAT WAS IN DANGER AND PUT IT IN A SAFE PLACE.

HIS JUDGMENT AT THE END OF TIME SHOWS THAT HE DOES NOT MAKE A JUDGMENT IN OUR LIVES IN ONE MOMENT OR ONE EXPERIENCE.

THE ONE AND ONLY CHANCE IS SOMETHING THE CARELESS SOWER WOULD DO.

FOR OUR PART THERE ARE TWO THINGS WE MUST DO.

AND THEY ARE DIFFICULT AND NOT THE EASY SOLUTIONS OF PEOPLE.

THE FIRST, IS THAT WE MUST OPEN OUR EARS AND OUR HEARTS.

WE HAVE TO LISTEN TO THE WORD AND MAKE IT PART OF OUR LIVES.

IT CHANGES THE WAY WE LOOK AT THE WORLD AND THE WAY WE LOOK AT OTHERS.

IF WE HAVE LISTENED AND INVITED THE WORD INTO OUR HEARTS,

AND COME BACK TO THOSE THINGS WHENEVER WHEN EVER WE STRAY,

THE WAY WE LOOK AT OTHER LIVES AND THE WAYS WE LOOK AT OURSELVES,

WILL CHANGE.

THERE' ALWAYS THE TEMPTATION TO BE THE CARELESS SOWER.

IT'S EASIER, IT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH REFLECTION, AND WE CAN MOVE ON.

OR WE CAN TRY-----WITH GOD'S HELP.....

THAT THERE IS NO ONE CHANCE ONLY,J

BOTH FOR OURSELVES AND FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN NEED.

FOR THOSE WHO NEED TO BE NURTURED AND FEEL WELCOMED INTO THE HARVEST OF THE KINGDOM
OF GOD.