

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of Ordinary Time. 1/27/2021

**The seed is the word of God, Christ is the sower**

A very large crowd gathered around Jesus. He sat down, and he taught them at length in parables. These parables are not detailed instructions or commands to follow.

Instead, they are stories that people can relate to their own experience, with some surprising or unexpected turn that will tease the mind of the audience into active thought. A parable invites engagement, imagination, mulling over, it takes some work on the part of the listeners. The result of that work is a higher conviction on what is learned and a response to it.

The parable of the sower would have resonated well with the audience. Many people were involved in farming work,

or at least would be familiar with it. They could imagine vividly the various situations of the seed, falling on the path, on rocky ground, among thorns or on rich soil.

One point to take from this parable is that at given point in time not everyone will accept the words of Jesus. In the large crowd gathered around him, many are not ready to receive him. There is rejection. Many will be distracted with other thoughts, or they may be intrigued by what they hear yet be skeptical. Those who do accept the word of Jesus may question, why is it that others do not see the value? Why is it that they do not receive the words that can bring freedom and fulfillment to their lives? When will they? This is not about them, but about us. We can probably see here a reflection of our own faith journeys,

as we realize after each moment of conversion that we were not paying enough attention to the word of God.

A second point in the parable is that God is a good and loving Father who wants to pour abundant blessings in the world and he never gives up on us. His word is fruitful, and it will produce an amazing harvest, with seeds that yield thirty, sixty and a hundredfold.

We are called to be the rich soil that will yield much fruit by hearing the word of God and accepting it. We find his word in Holy Scripture and in the celebration of the sacraments, but it also comes to us in the events ordered by divine providence. We receive the word of God with reverence and gratitude, ponder it in intimate prayer, accept it, let it take root in our heart. We may not always

understand it, but we keep it in our hearts, in faith. We need to trust in the Lord and be patient. In time the seeds will bear the fruit of Christian love.

We pray to the Virgin Mary, who was fertile soil for the word of God, to help us follow her example and to prepare to receive her son Jesus in the Eucharist.