

# Saint Boniface Parish

## Faith Formation Handout – Sunday, July 12<sup>th</sup>

### Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

#### **Matthew 23:1-23**

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." The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: *You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them*. "But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. "Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

## Where is God sowing seeds of discipleship in my life?

#### **First Grade**

Being a disciple of Jesus means that you try to follow Him and learn from Him. What are seven things that you have learned from Jesus (not about Him, but from Him)? How did you learn these things? How do these seven things help you to live a better life? How can these seven things help you to be a strong disciple? What other things can you learn from Him?

#### **Second Grade**

When God sows seeds of discipleship in our lives, He often does it through other people. Who are the people in your life that help you to be a good person and love God? What can you do to be around these people more and to learn more from them? What are three ways that other people have helped you to be a good disciple of Jesus?

#### **Third and Fourth Grades**

As we continue to receive the Sacraments, especially Confession and Communion, we receive Jesus. How do you receive Jesus in the Sacraments? How can the Sacraments help you to grow as a disciple? How can they help you to grow closer to Jesus Christ? Where do you see Jesus working in your life? How do the Sacraments help nourish the seeds of discipleship?

#### **Fifth and Sixth Grades**

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable about seeds that fall on different types of soil. One is good soil, but the seed gets choked by weeds. What do you think the weeds in the parable could represent in someone's life? What are some of the weeds in your life? Who are the people that are not helping you to live well? What should you do with the weeds in your life?

#### **Seventh and Eighth Grades**

In today's Gospel we hear about seed that lands on four different types of soil. If you are the seed in the parable, what type of soil do you think that you live in? What in your life is evidence of that? What are the challenges in your life that make being a disciple difficult? What are the supports in your life that help to make being a disciple possible and easier?

#### **High School and Adults**

While there are times when God moves in amazing and miraculous ways, He more often sows seeds of discipleship in our life that grow slowly. What are some ways that you have seen yourself grow and mature over the years? When have you noticed God prompting you to do something? Did you take the prompt or do you still have to grow in that way?

# For this Week...

We are Catholic always and in everything we do. Throughout the week bring your faith into your school, your work, your play and your family. Here are some ideas for you.

## Monday

The first type of soil the seed lands on in the parable is the hard path, where their faith is stolen by the devil. Is your life similar to this, where you feel like your faith never grows? Today, in your prayer, ask God to help you to see and be thankful for the faith you have. Lost all of the ways that God is moving in your life. If this is not you, take time today to thank God!

## Tuesday

The second type of soil that the seed lands on in the parable is the rocky ground where people get excited about their faith, but then it dies quickly. Today, whether you find yourself like this or not, make a commitment to begin praying every day no matter how you feel, excited about God or if you don't want to talk with Him.

## Wednesday

The third type of soil the seed lands on in the parable is in the thorns, where their faith is choked by worldly anxieties. Today, if you are this type of person, one that feels anxiety and does not rely on God, talk with Him today and give Him some of your worries. If this is not you, do something to help a person who is anxious today.

## Thursday

The fourth type of soil the seed lands on in the parable is the rich soil, where the person hears the Word of God and understands it. Today, first think about the times that you have seen God working in your life. Then, thank Him for those moments. If you are having trouble thinking of some, ask someone who knows you well to where they see God in your life.

## Friday

There are times in our lives when we feel like we are in each of these different types of soil or situations. We must be consistent in our discipleship no matter what. Today, determine what you daily pray is or will be. Choose something that you will be able to do every day that will draw you closer to Christ. One great idea is to read something from the Bible every day.

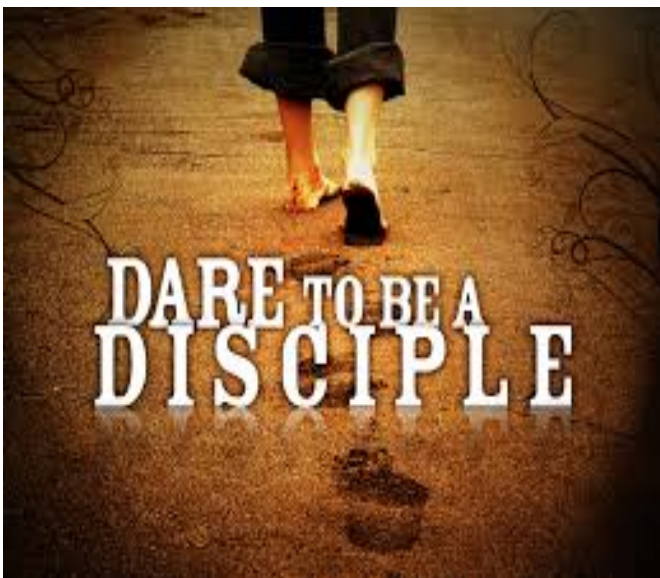
## Saturday

It is also important to remember that no matter what type of soil or situation we find ourselves in, God is always with us! He is always there to help us and to rejoice with us. Today, if you are in a difficult situation ask God to help you see Him. If you are doing well, help someone else who is having a difficult time see God in their life.

## FROM THE CATECHISM...

The disciple of Christ must not only keep the faith and live on it, but also profess it, confidently bear witness to it, and spread it: 'All however must be prepared to confess Christ before all men and to follow Him along the way of the Cross, amidst the persecutions which the Church never lacks.'

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1816



## Next Week's Readings

Here are the readings for next Sunday so that on Saturday you can read through them. If you take a few minutes to read them and prepare, you will get a lot more from Mass. They are available online at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). Use the calendar on the right.

**Wisdom 12:13,16-19 Psalm 86:5-6,9-10,15-16 Romans 8:26-27 Matthew 13:24-43**

This handout was created by the Lynn Catholic Collaborative. For more info on how to use at your parish please email [admin@lynncatholic.org](mailto:admin@lynncatholic.org)