

2020 July 12

## Fifteenth Sunday of the Ordinary Time

### Readings:

Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11, "My word shall accomplish that which I purpose..." (11b)

The Psalm 65, "You visit the earth, water it, you greatly enrich it." (9a)

Second: Romans 8:18-23, "The whole creation has been groaning in labour pain until now." (22)

The Gospel: Mathew 13:1-23, "To those who have, more will be given." (12a)

### *More to the haves!*

People familiar with the bible especially the gospels should be aware of the parable of the sower. Many in the modern world may not fully grasp the meaning of sowing and harvest, and its abundance or absence in the parable, because they do not have any direct experience as it used to be at the time of Jesus or even as it is in our times!

However, for believers as well for non-believers, the different remarks of Jesus to the general audience and to the disciples may look odd; we may not grasp them fully. To the big crowd Jesus makes the remark, "Let anyone with ears listen!" (Matthew 13.9) All the people gathered might have heard what Jesus said. However, Jesus invites a section from them to listen. Listening is deeper and more penetrating than hearing. Only those with a discerning heart can truly listen and understand the meaning of the parable. They need introspection, interiority, and reflection into their lives putting themselves in the position of the seed, each to any of the four spots where they fell and then consider moving, if need be, forward or away from where they are.

While interpreting the parable to his disciples Jesus makes this comment, "To those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away." (Matthew 13.12) We may like to resent this conclusion of Jesus. We might think that those who have little must be supplemented from the abundance of those who have more. Here Jesus might be emphasizing that we need to be industrious, hardworking, and be vigilant. Abundance comes from the inputs and additional efforts each one takes up.

Those who are careless, lazy and do not want to move forward cannot expect abundance, which is reserved for the industrious, alert and engaging people. Depending on these the harvest is likely to be hundred fold, sixty or thirty folds. For the others, since they are inactive and lazy what they have will be depleted fast, there would be no refill, and so they will end up in emptiness. Their laziness may even lead them to sell their land to the hardworking ones, which will further deprive them of what little they had. The decision to be in whichever category depends on each of us. However, the poor and the otherwise needy ones should not be dragged into this discussion. "Let anyone with ears listen!" (Matthew 13.9)

Fr. George

