

# BREAKING OPEN THE WORD



July 13, 2014

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 103

Gospel [mt 13:1-23](#)

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."

## Spiritual Reflection

From the book: *The Spirituality of Imperfection: Storytelling and the Search for Meaning* by Ernest Kurtz & Katherine Ketcham: "The chief executive of a large company was greatly admired for his energy and drive. But he suffered from one embarrassing weakness each time he entered the president's office to make his weekly report, he would wet his pants!

The kindly president advised him to see a urologist, at company expense. But when he appeared before the president the following week, his pants were wet again! "Didn't you see the urologist?" asked the president.

"No he was out. I saw a psychiatrist instead, and I'm cured," the executive replied. "I no longer feel embarrassed!"

We can either allow ourselves to grow in faith or be complacent. If we are not moving forward; then we are moving backward.

## Spiritual Question

1. How are you growing in your faith?
2. How can you grow in your faith?
3. What are some of your stumbling blocks that you need help in overcoming?
4. How can you prepare yourself to grow in faith better?
5. What are some worldly anxieties that get in the way of your faith development?