

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost, Proper 10

July 12, 2020

Year A RCL

Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65: 9-14; Matthew 13:1-9,18-23

“Bears fruit and yields.”

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Chapter 13 of Mathew’s Gospel narrates a series of parables that Jesus uses to educate the crowds and his own disciples about the heavenly realities. The parables are stories that illustrate situations on life that show a message of something deeper than what the people see or hear.

Today, we hear the Parable of the Sower. The goal of the seed is to germinate so to produce the sprout and the growth of a new plant, and eventually to yield flower and fruit. Once the fruit is ready and ripe, the harvest happens.

The germination cycle is a natural process that brings transformation and happens over and over. There are many factors like the soil, the seed, the water, the sun, etc., that intervene and make the new life possible. All these factors eventually have only one goal: to yield something new.

The parable of the sower reinforces what we hear in the first lesson from the Prophet Isaiah. The seed is the Word of God, and God is a generous sower that

cares for His seed; He sends rain and snow from heaven to water the earth making it bring a sprout and giving seed for bread.

The seed from God accomplishes the very purpose of God and returns to Him once the time is ready. There is no emptiness or incompleteness in God's perfection; His seed always yields fruit and produces exactly what God has created it to be.

Today's parable of the sower represents the human answer to God's presence. We heard that there are 4 types of soil, we need to recognize that our life is the ground where the seed of God germinates and produces fruit or where the seed is denied growth and dies.

Understanding that the Word of God is a seed, is extremely valuable because it explains that The Word is life that has the power to transform us. Sometimes people conceive the Bible only as a book, a written revelation with moral content that we read on Sundays during church service which has good stories and teachings about Jesus.

If instead we recognize the Bible as the seed from God, we are able to realize that God continues to write history in our midst. The Bible requires a reader to produce the effect as the seed needs the ground to yield the new life. If we

reduce today's lessons only as one part of our worship celebration, we are limiting the intervention of God in our life.

After teaching the parable of the sower to the people, Jesus later explains it to his disciples; He knows that they will become the new sowers. After them, we along with all of Jesus' disciples are those called to scatter the seed. Something we need to notice is the generosity of the Sower in this parable. He allows some seed to fall in the path, even if the path is a transitory ground.

The path in Jesus' explanation is the lack of understanding, the inability to have a genuine spiritual connection. It is not enough to come to church or to read the Bible if we are in transition of our beliefs; the enemy which is represented by the birds is always ready to eat the surface seeds.

The rocky ground can be considered as most modern Christians that enjoy the Word of God but are not ready to commit to The Word. Think about our tithe, only a few Christians give back to God the ten percent that is expected from their Christian duty. The root of our Christian desires and the actual actions in our life go in two contrasting directions. We see "rocky ground" Christians avoiding trouble or persecution especially when it touches their comfort zone and/or their personal priorities.

The ground full of thorns is an excellent figure of how impossible it is to yield something when we have our energies and resources placed only in the cares of the world. Some Christians choke the Bible's response because of their attachment to wealth and wrong desires in the kingdom of this world which appear attractive and therefore, they become slaves of their attachments and desires.

Only the last ground described are those who defied this world, they hear and understand The Word. They endure troubles and persecution; they are not slaves of the lures of this world; they strive to live according to God's will; they produce abundant fruits. The percentages of the harvest vary according with the talents each one has received. What is important here is that all produce fruit plentifully.

It is extremely important for us to see how we are receiving God's seed: Are we allowing the cycle of life of the seed to produce in our midst or are we limiting the growth?

Since today we are the new sowers, will we scatter the seed from God in generosity or scarcity?

As we further contemplate today's lessons, may we go forth and be counted among those who "indeed bears fruit and yields". Amen.