

A Short Teaching on the Seed  
by Deacon Gerry Palermo

Greetings on this the 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

Readings: IS 55:10-11; PS 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14; ROM 8:18-23; MT 13:1-23

Today's Gospel Matthew 13:1-23 brings the fullness of the relations of our life. Good and bad.

The Sower is God. The seed... the seed is you... the sowing are the circumstances of our lives.

Before we go further let's think about the messages in Isaiah and the Psalmist.

God provides our material needs making life fertile and fruitful. God visits the Earth, He adorns her, He blesses her, He cares for her to be cheerful and sing with Joy! God provides our immaterial needs making life fertile and fruitful. His word in all its dimensions (the person of Christ, the Holy Scriptures, and teachings of the Church, Family) is like the rains and snow, it waters the soul with every good thing that we might be cheerful and sing with Joy!

The story changes in the messages Romans and Matthew. There is now an imperative or urgency in the message. We suffer, we await, creation is groaning, we sons / daughters are groaning.

Jesus describes the four basic situations this occurs.

Upon the path... children are born every day and are raised without any foundation in faith. Faith and Reason are not nurtured in them. Faith without reason is mere myth; Reason without Faith cannot attain the fullness of truth and leaves one empty of purpose. These children without sufficient moral / spiritual teaching at the lap of Mother and the side of Father concerning our eternal nature, mysterious nature, our moral nature... Children are lost and stolen away by evil.

Upon rocky soil... the young men and women of middle and senior high school age... who have not learned (were not taught) to stand firm in faith and reason collapse under peer pressure. The culture of death binds them, blinds them. Under the weight of ridicule they retreat. The constant barrage of ridicule and isolation shrivels up their faith until it dies.

Among the thorns... the adult. Yes, the serious ones. Forgetting the eye of faith in God they seek the solace of God without the need for God: an impossible task. They become enticed by the worldly pleasures, even deeply injurious pleasures, or riches and real estate and large grain bins.

Don't panic! Move your seed! Pick up your seed and move it to where you are fertile and fruitful (you are not a potted plant, after all). Reunite faith and reason. Find the Word in Jesus Christ as person and the Word in Holy Scripture to feed you. Find your children and teach them from of old, the stories of our fathers. Then we will have the right type of groaning.

Peace be with you.

Deacon Gerry