

# From the PASTOR'S DESK

## *The Word of the Kingdom*

Today's Gospel is the parable of the Sower and the Seed, along with Our Lord's interpretation of His own words. In that interpretation, Jesus makes it plain that the subject of the parable is the *Word of the Kingdom*. What is that Word which gives the key to the parable?

In Christianity, the Word has come to refer to the biblical message in a general way. More precisely, as Christians, the Word refers to the books of the New Testament. In today's Gospel, the New Testament tells us of the original message of Jesus: how it was delivered, and to whom, and how the first hearers responded. The Word will be, then, the message Jesus preached about His Father and the Father's plan for the world. But the Word that Jesus preached is not the whole of what the Scriptures have to say about Christ. There is a wider message. The apostles proclaimed the significance of His Passion and Death, His Resurrection and Ascension, and the Coming of the Holy Spirit. These topics go well beyond the words Jesus preached during His public ministry in the towns of Judea and Galilee. On the basis of these events, the apostolic Word includes the claim that, in Jesus Christ, God Himself has become incarnate in His own creation. Jesus Christ reconciles us to the Father and raises us up to share His own divine life.

In Himself, Jesus Christ is the communication of God. He is the Word of God in person. What He said, and did, and is – His personal reality as the crucified, glorified Lord – continues to be available in the Church. In His Church, He leads us into *all the truth*.

The Church is the Church of the Word. With the help of the Holy Spirit, it is her task to unfold the riches of the Word and to make those riches available to all in doctrine and Liturgy, in catechisms and sacred art, and in the lives of her saints. By planting ourselves as deeply as possible into all those channels of the Word, we let the *Word of the Kingdom* bear fruit in our lives for time and for eternity. This is the implication of today's parable. It is what all true spirituality is about. Spirituality is the response to the divine Word made accessible to us in all kinds of ways.

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