

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 12, 2020

Planting a seed is actually an act of faith. You trust that the sun, the soil, the moisture, and the air, will all do what is needed for the seed to grow. You may even do your part with the fertilizer and weeding. But even in the wild without human help, a seed is an amazing delivery system for new life, and seeds have been doing their job successfully for thousands of years.

Jesus described God acting like a person sowing seeds of new life in people. In the parable, God, or Jesus Himself is the sower. The seed is the revelation of God's Kingdom, which brings new life. The different soils are different people's responses to the message. We tend to focus on the obstacles to the seeds, but the parable should give us encouragement and hope. After all, the seed of God's word and wisdom eventually land on the perfect spot, in the ready human heart. There to germinate, grow, thrive, and bare the fruit of right thinking and living.

The parable describes individual people who are too shallow, too busy, too dense to receive God's wisdom. But these conditions also describe the stages of faith as it develops in each of us. To be honest, and I include myself in this, sometimes it seems so little of God's word finds a place in us. Especially in those of us who worship regularly and hear it so often. Of course, that is the human condition. But thankfully, God, the sower keeps reseeding us with His word. God doesn't give up on us. That's the Gospel. That's the good news. Every day is a new opportunity to listen to God's wisdom in scripture and in our prayer.

One important result of hearing and receiving God's word is that it gives us the grace to listen and to receive the words of our sisters and brothers with patience, especially during these days of Covid19. Everyone has an important story to tell, a fear to reveal, anxiety to share. To help them as we should, we remember the words of Jesus: "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God."

Fr. Valentine

Scripture Readings: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/071220.cfm>