

## Homily Rerun: July 16, 2017 ~ Fr Kachy



The different types of soil in which the seeds are sown are, as explained by Jesus, metaphors for the disposition with which each individual hears the teaching about the kingdom of heaven. Some will be easily swayed away from the kingdom of heaven. Some will receive it for a time but will lose it when faced with difficulties. Some will hear the word but will then permit other cares to choke it out. Yet some will receive it well, and the seed will produce abundant fruit.

Every time we read this part of the Gospel we begin by asking ourselves “What type of soil does the Word of God falling on me find? How much fruit do I bear as a result of my disposition to the word of God? But I am rather concerned about the lost seeds; seeds falling on the wayside, rocky soil and in the bush – bringing a disappointment to the farmer.

When it comes to facing failures or disappointments in life, the farmer’s story in today’s Gospel parable sounds a lot like many of us. We study hard, work hard, but not every time do we succeed. Most of the best things that we give to others are not well received by them. Most of what we want to plant in the lives of those around us doesn’t “take”; it doesn’t become rooted and permanently planted in their lives. It becomes a lost seed.

All of us have to deal with failure and disappointments at times. Take a look at those areas where you’ve given the best for others, but comes up lacking, falling short of our hopes, our dreams, and our great expectations. When we read and reflect on the Holy Scriptures we find out that even Jesus knew the pain of failure and disappointment.

He was born and raised in Nazareth and his own hometown folks rejected Him.

His own Hebrew countrymen rejected His message.

What about his handpicked twelve apostles? Well, one of them sold Him out for thirty pieces of silver and the others fled when He was crucified.

Peter wasn’t too swift to take His message to heart, Thomas was the doubter, and the others weren’t much better either.

Elijah, long before Christ, along with Jeremiah and other prophets as well, went through such disappointing experiences and sometimes failures, most of them being taken outside the walls of Jerusalem and then stoned to death.

We need to remember that Jesus did not let apparent failure stop Him. In ministry we are primarily called to sow a seed. How this seed germinates, grows and bears fruit is not our responsibility; it is the work of the Holy Spirit.

Any Crisis has within it both threats and opportunities. God is at work among us bringing good out of evil. We must remember that in the hands of God the slightest good can be multiplied to feed thousands if we would but hand our efforts into His care and providence.

Many times, I am called upon to console discouraged parents who poured out all of their love and faith into their children, taught them the Catholic faith, sent them to religious education classes or to Catholic schools, only to have them, as adults, leave our Church and go elsewhere. We must remember in such cases that the love and the faith that we’ve planted in the hearts of those around us, particularly in the hearts and souls of our children, will eventually blossom. The hopes and dreams that we’ve planted in others, even when they seem to be buried under too much dirt, will germinate, grow, and yield a harvest of some extent, even if our efforts now appear to be unqualified successes. How will it happen? Just keep your faith to God and your prayer for them.

You and I, like all good farmers who continually face floods and disasters of every sort, need to seriously engage ourselves in the enterprise of faith and hope, planting the best of what we have, and then letting God’s sun, wind, and gentle rains do the rest. God’s only-begotten Son, along with the gentle breath of His Holy Spirit, provide waters of grace to nourish and sustain what He has planted in the lives of those we love. The best years of our lives, and the best that we have given to others, or are giving right now, or will give in the future, will not be fruitless. Faith and hope are what should be in our hearts, not defeat and despair.

And so, my friends, keep on planting God’s good seeds in the lives of those near to you. For God Himself has said through His prophet Isaiah that His Word shall go forth from His mouth “... and it shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.” (Isaiah 55:11)