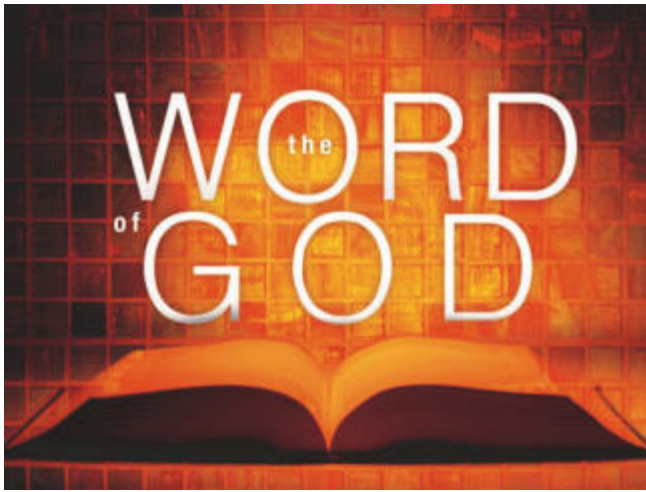


FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters



‘A sower went out to sow, and some seed fell on the path, some fell on rocky ground, some fell among thorns, but some fell on rich soil.’ (Matt 13)

This parable from today’s Gospel speaks to our life, it is very existential. The seed sown is the Word of God. God is the sower, who casts the seed of the Word into the world. But this seed does not automatically bear fruit, it depends where it falls. We can be the path, the rocky ground, the thorns or the soil. It depends how we listen to the Word, and our interior disposition, as to what happens to the Word we receive.

Those who are the ‘path’ do not understand the Word of God, the Bible, the Scriptures, and therefore even the events of their life. They will always listen with an angle, an analytical pre-condition, which wants to dominate the Word; they compare what they hear with what they know, and reject that which does not appeal to reason or seems unintelligible. The Word does not arrive to their heart, but stays in their head, and soon after that disappears completely.

Others, Jesus says, are the rocky ground. For them the readings in Mass are great, the homilies are wonderful, they feel good when they leave Mass, but the Word does not make a difference in their life. Some trial or tribulation comes along and the Word is immediately forgotten. The last place they seek help when faced with the daily difficulties is the Word of God. Friends, the news, social media, their own reasoning are the staple go-to’s when decisions need to be made.

Others are the thorns. Their goal is to have a comfortable life, and avoid any suffering or difficulty, and the most important thing is to have a comfortable life. The drive to success and financial stability are paramount, and the anxieties of life and the lure of riches choke whatever was sown.

But there are others who are the rich soil, and who bear fruit.

Another word for soil is ‘humus’, the same etymological root as ‘humility’ or ‘homo sapiens.’ We are made of the earth, and our deepest truth is humility. Humility is the truth. The humble can listen to the Word of God and it bears fruit in their life.

A man called Jack once told me that he was always the path, the rock or the thorns. He thought he listened to the Word, but one day realized he didn’t. This realization came to him when he heard the reading about Jesus before Pilate, and Pilate’s wife told her husband what had been revealed to her in a dream - not to condemn this innocent man. Jack said that he realized he never listened to his wife. Sure, he heard her, but he never listened to what she said; he had written her off a long time ago. The Word effected a change in him, and the relationship with his wife and his children also changed dramatically. Their marriage, and their family life was rejuvenated.

Sunday Mass is an opportunity to listen to the Word of God. May we do so today, asking for the grace of humility, that the Word may bear fruit in us.

Fr. Sean