

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time- A: Is 55:10–11; Rom 8:18–23; Mat 13:1–23: "The Seed Never Fails; It Is the Soil That Decides the Harvest."

A tiny seed can split a mighty rock. A gentle drop of rain can awaken a sleeping forest. A single word spoken with love can change the direction of a human life.

This is the quiet but irresistible power of today. Jesus enters the vast field of the human heart—not with weapons, wealth, or worldly influence—but with a handful of seed. The smallest seed often carries the greatest future. The world admires what is large and spectacular. God begins with what is small and hidden. As the Lord reminded Samuel, **"The Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).**

The first reading gives us one of God's most reassuring promises: **"So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose." (Isaiah 55:11).** Just as rain falls quietly upon the earth...just as snow gently nourishes the fields... God's Word quietly enters the heart and accomplishes His saving purpose. Every raindrop carries heaven's blessing. Every word of God carries the power of eternal life. The Letter to the Hebrews reminds us: **"Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword." (Hebrews 4:12).** God's Word is never merely information; it is transformation. St. Jerome wisely said, **"Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."** Whenever we open the Bible with faith, Christ Himself speaks to us.

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells the familiar Parable of the Sower. The seed is always good. The Sower is always generous. The only question is: **What kind of soil is my heart?** Some hearts are like the pathway—closed by pride and indifference. Some are rocky—receiving God's Word with enthusiasm but giving up when trials come. Some are filled with thorns—where anxiety, materialism, ambition, and distractions slowly choke the life of grace. But some become rich soil, welcoming the Word with patience and perseverance, producing thirty, sixty, and even a hundredfold. Notice something beautiful. **The Sower never stops sowing.** Even where the soil looks hopeless, God still scatters His seed. St. Augustine beautifully reminds us, **"The seed is the Word of God."** And St. John Chrysostom adds, **"The fault lies not with the Sower but with the ground that receives the seed."**

Many of us become discouraged because we do not immediately see results. We pray...we forgive...we serve...yet nothing seems to change. Nature teaches us otherwise. No one hears roots growing beneath the earth. Yet those hidden roots prepare tomorrow's harvest. Jesus Himself says, **"Whoever remains in me and I in him bears much fruit." (John 15:5).** Hidden growth is still growth. God is often doing His greatest work where human eyes cannot see. St. Francis de Sales once wrote,

"Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself." The seed is never in a hurry, yet it never stops growing. The richest harvest always begins beneath the surface.

In the second reading from Romans broadens our vision. St. Paul tells us that **all creation is groaning in hope**, waiting for the glorious freedom of God's children). Every seed buried in darkness longs for sunlight. Every winter quietly carries the promise of spring. Every cross carry within it the promise of resurrection. In other words, St. Paul gently lifts our eyes from today's pain to tomorrow's promise. He assures us, **"The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed."** (*Romans 8:18*). Perhaps someone here is carrying silent grief...a broken relationship...illness...loneliness...or disappointment. Take courage. God never wastes a faithful tear. As the Psalmist says, **"Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning."** (*Psalms 30:5*). And St. Paul assures us again, **"All things work together for good for those who love God."** (*Romans 8:28*). The Cross is never God's final word. Resurrection always has the last word. St. Teresa of Calcutta reminds us, **"God has not called us to be successful; He has called us to be faithful."**

This Gospel is not asking us whether we know the Word. It asks whether we allow the Word to change us. Every day we make choices. Every act of forgiveness softens the soil. Every prayer removes another thorn. Every act of charity deepens the roots. Every Eucharist nourishes the seed. As St. James teaches, **"Be doers of the word, and not merely hearers."** (*James 1:22*).

Parents, remember: you are the first Sowers of faith in your children. Children may forget many of your words, but they rarely forget the example of your lives. Your homes become fertile soil when prayer replaces complaint, forgiveness replaces resentment, and love replaces selfishness. Our society also needs good soil. The world has enough criticism. It needs more compassion. It has enough anger. It needs more mercy. It has enough darkness. It needs more disciples who quietly sow seeds of hope. As St. Francis of Assisi encouraged, **"Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words."** A heart open to God today becomes a harvest of hope tomorrow.

The wonderful news is this: **God never abandons the field because of a poor harvest.** He patiently cultivates, waters, waits, and sows again. He never gives up on us. May we not simply hear God's Word today. But may we become the fertile soil where His Word lives, grows, and bears fruit **thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold** for His glory. **Amen**