

Sunday Homily on 12th July –

(The Parable of the Sower) Mt 13:1-23

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A professor in a college English class said to his students, “If you will just take a new word and use 100 times, it will be yours forever.” Whereupon a young woman in the class looked dreamily out of the window and sighed, “Johnny, Johnny, Johnny, Johnny..., the Parable of the Sower, could be considered as a foundation parable of the Kingdom of God. Jesus took the story from the life of the people. Chapter 13 of St. Matthew repeats seven parables, Jesus taught on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. And the parable of the sower is the first one. There were two methods of sowing seed in Palestine in Jesus’ day. One was to place a bag of seed on the back of a donkey, cut holes in either side of the bag and let the seed run out as the donkey walked over the ground. And the other method was to sow the seed by hand. This second method seems to be the picture Jesus had in mind. We notice in this parable there were no problem with the seed. And there was no problem with the sower? the sower had a very good dream about his cultivation. Even he was very patience enough to wait for its fruits. And the sower sows the seed and the seed lands in 4 places: Some seed fell on the path. Every field has a path; the path is as hard as concrete; any seed falling there just sits on surface and the birds come and eat it up and it does nothing. It could be said that it is *the Hardened Heart*. The path is where everyone walks; it is public; It is not a place of interest. The path has no interiority. The indifferent heart is pictured by ‘the wayside’. And some seed fell on rocky ground. Every field has a pile of stones in the corner; A farmer can clear a field of stones and pile them in the corner and a little soil with them and some seed fell there and started to grow in the shallow soil, but when the sun got really hot, the new plant withered because it had no depth to its root. It could be said it is *the Distracted Heart*. The

heart can be like a rock or a stone: solid, impenetrable, self-enclosed, separate, unloving and unloved. And “Some seed fell among thorns. Every field has its weed-patch and weeds always grow more strongly than plants? It is *the Defeated Heart*. Jesus says: It has a chance to grow there, but everything else is growing there too. It represents too an insecure heart and there is openness, but the heart has many concerns. And “Some seed fell on good soil. It is *the Hopeful and Joyful Heart*. It is good soil when none of the above applies. Then the heart is deep, soft and silent. At the end the question each of us must ask ourselves today is: “What type of soil for the word of God do I represent? So also, Jesus speaks about the power of the seed - the Word of God. He tells us that, if we sow the seed with confidence, it will bring a great harvest of souls. We need to invest our God given gifts: spiritual, social, intellectual, financial and count on God to give a rich harvest. Let me ask you to invest some of what you have received where it will almost surely give an abundant harvest both for you and our community.

Amen