

July 12th 2026 15th Sunday Ordinary Time – Year A Matthew 13:1-23

¹³⁻¹⁴That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁰The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”

¹¹He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. ¹²Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ¹³This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

¹⁴In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

¹⁵For this people’s heart has become calloused;

they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’

¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. ¹⁷For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it. ¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. ²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

➤ **Read and re-read** – out loud and slowly the Gospel.

➤ **Meditate** - on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.

➤ **Pray** - Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition.

➤ **Action** – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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In this week’s gospel we read about the Sower and it is one of Jesus’ greatest parables because as a wisdom teaching, which is what a parable is, we get new insights into some aspects of life. There is nearly always an element of surprise in parables. We see the sower as a free and generous spirit continuing to sow even though he may not always see results. He trusts that his faithfulness will eventually bear abundant fruit.

Are there times in our lives when we had the temptation to give up sowing seeds of faith in peoples lives because we did not see the results we expected?

Prayer:

Thank You Lord for the great gift of Lectio Divina which is this gospel in action. The Word is the seed sown in us. Personal experience is the soil in which it takes root. When we “hear the word and understand it” it yields a rich harvest.

Forgive us Lord for not giving the message of Jesus a chance to go deeply into our society. We have become very greedy and what does not bring results immediately we omit altogether.

Help us Lord to believe that to live in the Kingdom is to live in the hope that our good actions are in co-operation with the work of God in our world and will yield good fruit eventually.