

JULY 24, 2020  
Friday of the 16<sup>th</sup> Week in OT  
Matthew 13: 18-23

“LET US TAKE ROOT AND BEAR FRUIT.”

When somebody asked you to listen, how do you respond? Do you listen attentively or half-hearted? How do you listen to your husband or wife or parents or friends or people around you? Do you listen or you just hear it? When we listen, we not only open our ears but also our minds and hearts to another person. In our gospel for today, we are all invited not just to hear the Word of God but to listen to the Word of God. Jesus Christ is the sower and we are the different soil. He is reminding us not to be preoccupied with material things that can distract us from what is essential and valuable. Don't let our hearts and minds be devoured, eaten, and consumed with worldly things, things that can weigh us down and away from the real treasure, God and heaven, treasure that last for ever, for eternity.

“Various obstacles that can hinder us from hearing the word of the Lord in a way that bears fruit in our lives. The first obstacle mentioned is lack of understanding. We do need some understanding of the word that we hear. We don't necessarily need to do all kinds of courses, but we need some sense of who Jesus is if we are to hear his word with appreciation. The second obstacle mentioned is the lack of roots. Sometimes we do not allow the word we hear to enter into us deeply enough. We have a superficial acquaintance with the word, but we don't ponder it sufficiently for it to take real root in us. What isn't rooted in us can easily be abandoned when it begins to cost us something. The third obstacle is worldly care and the lure of riches. We cannot serve God and Mammon; if we try to serve Mammon, the Lord's word gets choked.”<sup>1</sup>

My brothers and sisters let God's word take root in our heart. If you notice, these past days, our gospel is kept on repeating and reminding us: listen and have open heart and mind in receiving the Word of God. “Your soul is like a field. Jesus wants to sow good seed in your

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<sup>1</sup> [www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie](http://www.associationofcatholicpriests.ie)

soul so that, at the end of your life in this world, He can find a rich field of grace to harvest. But the parable that Jesus tells us shows that even though Jesus takes good seed everywhere He goes, some fields—some souls—are better than others. The good soul, ready to accept the seed of God’s Word, is the soul that focuses on God. This is the person who prays daily to God, asks His help, and knows that God will forgive all sins.”<sup>2</sup> Only in the receptive heart, docile and who listens that God’ Word can take root. Let us therefore ask the Lord in this Eucharist that we may attentively listen, eager to learn, submit to Him with joy and trusting obedience to God’s Word. Let us not allow ourselves to be distracted and always focus our minds, our hearts, our whole being to God and His Words for us to bear fruit abundantly and share the fruits to others everyday. And at the end, the Lord will tell us: “Well done, good and trustworthy servant, enter into the joy of your Master.”<sup>3</sup> Heaven will be our reward if we listen, understand, bear fruit, and obey His Words.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.catholicsermons.com/weekday/daily\\_reflections](http://www.catholicsermons.com/weekday/daily_reflections)

<sup>3</sup> Matthew 25: 21 NRSV Catholic Bible Press USA