

SEPTEMBER 18, 2021
Saturday of the 24th Week in OT
Luke 8: 4-15

“BEAR FRUIT ABUNDANTLY”

Yesterday gospel talked about the image of universality or Catholicism of the teaching of Jesus. All walks of life are called and invited to be part of the mission. Jesus was preaching the Good News through cities and villages with His disciples. These disciples were not only men but women who lived, supported and important component of the work of Jesus and the disciples. Jesus was also surrounded by those people who came for Him from nearby communities and cities. All these people provided for Jesus and the twelve out of their own resources and provisions. They took upon themselves the universality of giving, generosity of heart and willingness to be part of the mission of Jesus. Now in our gospel of today, Jesus was teaching His disciples of the Parable of the Sower. Jesus was sowing the seed upon the hearts of His listeners. He scattered the Word and planted them in their hearts and mind, to follow and continue planting the seed for others. As indicated in the parable, some of this seed falls on the path, on rocks, among thorns and the good soil.

My brothers and sisters, “the central message is that, even though some of the seed that the sower plants will wither and die, there is some which will find fertile soil and flourish. So it is with the Word of God and the Word of Jesus. It is a message of confidence and hope for the future of the Kingdom. In the Gospel, it is Jesus’ disciples who are the fertile soil. As he finished the parable Jesus called out to all, inviting them to hear. He did not mean that they just physically hear. They are meant to listen carefully, to assimilate fully and to implement effectively all that he says. He is the Sower, the seed is the Word, those spoken to are the soil. The seed that falls on good soil represents those

who hear the word in all openness and accept it fully. The word takes root deep within them and overflows in all kinds of good works.”¹

My brothers and sisters, let us be part of this group of people, the good soil where the Word is planted, blossom and become fruitful. Let us be one of the disciples of Jesus that amidst hardship and challenges, we will take that responsibility to continue the mission: to spread the Good news to others by living simple, honest and productive life always. Let us be the face of the Word, the face of Jesus to others, disciples who bear fruit, as Jesus said in the last part of the gospel: “these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.”²

My brothers and sisters, let us pray in this mass, that we may always have a listening heart, a good soil that bear fruit, and good example for others by words and deeds. May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us.

¹ livingspace.sacredspace.ie

² Luke 8: 15 Holy Bible NRSVCE Canadian Bible Society