

SEPTEMBER 19, 2020
Saturday of the 24th Week in OT
Luke 8: 4-15

“LISTENING TO GOD’S WORD.”

During summer, we are so excited to plant vegetables, flowers, and fruit-bearing trees. We enjoy doing it because some it’s for their exercise and hobby, some to make their gardens beautiful and refreshing. As experienced by farmers, not all of it grows and produces bountiful harvest. Along the way, they died or withered.

This is also the picture of our faith, what we experienced in planting and gardening, we can also experience in our journey of faith. Our surrounding affects our faith. Sometimes, sickness, problems, difficulties may shake and not conducive to our faith, or material world, riches and worldly pleasures can choke our faith.

What we must do to nurture our faith? How do we make the seed of faith fruitful and the soil rich for bountiful harvest? One of the many ways of nurturing our faith is through prayer and constant dialogue or communication with the Lord. Personal and communal prayer help us to deepen our faith and strengthen our outlook in life amidst all anxieties and troubles. When we attend masses and other sacraments, we allow ourselves to be formed and developed according to God’s plan because God is with us and speaking to us through the sacraments. Another aspect is listening to the Word and keeping it in one’s heart. When we are receptive and willing to listen, God’s Word can transform, convert, and change us. “A receptive heart and open mind are always ready to hear what God wants to teach us through His word. The ‘ears of their heart’ and the ‘eyes of their mind’ search out the meaning of God's word for them so that it may grow and produce good fruit in their lives. They hear with a listening ear and teachable spirit (Isaiah 50:4-5) that wants to learn and understand the intention of God's word for them. They strive to tune out the noise and distractions of the world around them so they can give their attention to God's word and find nourishment in it. They listen in order to

understand. God's word has power to change and transform each one of us if we receive it with trust (a believing heart) and allow it to take root in our inner being (the depths of our heart, mind, and soul)."¹ If we have that kind of heart and mind, it affects how we live, and emanates in our relationship with others and produces a bountiful harvest of a hundredfold.

My brothers and sisters, how do we cultivate and make our faith stronger? are we listening attentively to God's Word and follow them? Let us ask in this Eucharist that we may have a receptive heart and willing mind to the Word of God and change us and be fruitful not only for our own selves but for others, too. Let us ask the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary who listened attentively to the Word and treasured it in her heart that like her we may be faithful followers of Jesus everyday.

¹ www.dailyscripture.net