

KEEPING FAITH FIRST- FAMILY FUN

S K R N G M Y R Z S
W H E Q G W H M I W
O A O W W T U S B Y
L P A R A B L E S M
S E N P E K S A A N
D X P S U N P T J I
W S U S R V T A M V
O N C O O H T O J D
R U H O E G I B L I
C T X W R X S O I L
J E S U S C F G C F
S D D F L Y H B K W
O E R E T Q I E R I
W A G R E R S Z D T
E S I U D P E R J H
R H T S Y K C O R E
T C A O W W Q M O R
R T Y Z O H Q L G E
G M X A X R D O V D
M D E R D N U H P Q

BIRDS	MATTHEW	SOIL
BOAT	PARABLES	SOWER
CROWDS	PATH	SUN
DEEP	ROCKY	THIRTYFOLD
GOSPEL	ROOTS	THORNS
HUNDRED J	SCORCHED	WITHERED
ESUS	SEA	
	SHORE	

Catechizing Corner!

As the parable develops, the sower is a minor player. The star of this one-act play is the seed and its ability to do what it was intended to do. Jesus describes the path of the seed after it was thrown by the sower. The listener's attention is drawn to the condition of the soil. Obviously, the seed planted in the thorny and rocky soil did not bear fruit--no surprise there. The surprise comes when the farmer hears how large the harvest was for the seed that fell on good soil. They would have been pleased with a ten-fold harvest, but this seed produced three to 10 times as much as the farmers would have expected a good crop to produce. The seed is the good news of God's reign. This is at the heart of Jesus preaching mission--God's reign has finally arrived. Matthew's repeated reference to God's word is intended to stress his teaching mission and its extension to the disciples. The soil represents the interior receptivity of those who hear the message. They will either hear and accept or hear and reject. Many who heard Jesus did not accept his message or his mission. The tension between the Christians of Matthew's community and the Jewish community is clear evidence of the rejection of Jesus' teaching.

*Mary Birmingham, Word and Worship Workbook,
Cycle A Paulist Press*



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Disciple's Reflection

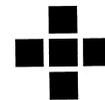
for the
Question
of the Week

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time
7/16/2023

A Call to Prayer

The Word of God
Matthew 13:1-23
Faith Sharing
Questions of the week

Closing Prayer



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Holy Family is a welcoming Catholic Eucharistic community of disciples of Jesus Christ connecting faith with life and reaching out to those in need!

Call to Prayer

Begin by calling upon God: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen.

Let us pause for a moment and listen attentively to this week's passage.

The Word of God Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted. To anyone who has,

more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand. Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says: You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them."

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to 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."

"Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart. The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away. The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit. But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

The Gospel of the Lord

Gospel Glossary

Parables are brief stories or wise sayings that Jesus used to teach a certain message.

A **sower** is a farmer who is planting seeds by hand. In this parable, the seeds represent the word of God. Sometimes it bears fruit and sometimes it does not. We must try to be fertile ground for the word of God.

A **hundred or sixty or thirtyfold** refers to the way that one seed can produce as many as thirty, or sixty, or even a hundred pieces of fruit or grain or vegetables. A plant needs a good **root** system, deep and strong in order to survive times of ecological stress. We also need a solid and secure faith, rooted deep in the Spirit of God dwelling in our hearts.

Faith Sharing

Questions of the Week:

Adults: As a child where were you planted? Where do you want to plant your children?

Teens: When the sower, in this week's Gospel, sowed his seed, not all of it fell on "good soil." What can you do in the coming week to make sure that you are open to God in your life? What is getting in the way of your being "good soil?"

Children: Who helps you to grow deeper in your faith?

Families: Using the parable of Jesus in this reading, describe how faith has been planted in your life? How long did it take for that seed to land "on good soil?"

Closing Prayer

Lord, You have called us to be your disciples, to live in faith, walking always in your footsteps. By your suffering, death, and resurrection, you have made us children of God. As you have loved us and asked us to love one another, help us to love and embrace everyone in our lives.

Fill us with love, compassion, forgiveness, patience, understanding, and tolerance, even when we face the pain of hatred, rejection, and failure.

Guide us to be good disciples. May we seek always the praise and glory of God and the good of all people. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary