

Going Deeper-15th Sunday (Year A)

Scripture

The readings this weekend are:

- + Isaiah 55:10-11
- + Romans 8:18-23
- + Matthew 13:1-23

Our Good Works

This liturgy focuses on **Matthew 13:1-23**, which is Matthew's account of 'the parable of the sower.' Matthew 13 is comprised of seven parables in total, interspersed by deeper explanations (albeit only for the Apostles) including the reason why Jesus preaches in parable.

The parable of the sower begins by Jesus explaining that he knows that some in the crowd hear and understand his teachings, others hear but do not understand, and others yet hear and reject them altogether. Therefore, by speaking in parables Jesus can share with everyone the same message regardless of their different viewpoints. Those who are already open will hear the parables and be moved by them, grasping the teachings that they contain. Those who are not yet ready may hear the parables and simply remember the stories until a time when the teachings are revealed to them. Thus, parables provide an opportunity to encounter God wherever we may be.

The parable of the sower is an important message for those in ministry. It is no coincidence that we often compare liturgists, Eucharistic ministers and church volunteers to 'planters.' They are the ones who help to scatter God's seeds in the hearts of His people.

Like in the parable itself, the word of God may fall on all types of people and produce all types of results. However, there will always be those who will grow deep and strong in their faith, bearing the proof of this in their actions and words. Find encouragement in the fact that you may 'plant' a seed through the works of your ministry, but that it is God Himself who will cultivate it and make it grow. The parable of the sower encourages us to plant profusely and to plant often. Witness your faith to others, have patience and dedicate time to self-reflection to ensure that you, yourself are a 'good soil' for the word of God to grow in your own heart and in your own life.