

15th Sunday Ordinary Time

- Isaiah says “The word of God shall not return void, but shall achieve the end for which I sent it”
- Then the Gospel says “the Word of God on fertile hearts bears fruit 100, 60, and 30 fold.”
 - So – do we have fertile hearts?
 - When the Word of God lands upon our hearts will it bear fruit – do we have fertile hearts?
 - My father always had big garden – he’d start planting seeds in egg crates (**in prepared soil**)
 - Then he’d transplant seedlings outside (**in prepared soil – manure**)
 - As they grew he would hoe (deals with weeds, aerates soil) **HUGE CROP**
- Today’s Gospel is really about sowing God’s Word so that it will bear fruit
 - The seed is scattered – a) on hard rocky soil, b) with weeds, c) on fertile soil
 - The Word of God is scattered **on believers and unbelievers alike**
 - In a nation like Bahamas everyone hears the Word (Public Mtgs – Independence Day)
 - Yet the Bahamas still has a lot of unbelievers
 - **NB - *There is nothing wrong with the seed*** – its all about the soil – it’s all about us!
 - It is about having fertile hearts “The Word of God on fertile hearts bears fruit 100, 60, 30 fold”
 - We are the soil
 - FACE IT - we can be hard as rock - we can be full of weeds **OR** we can be fertile ground
- Romans said “All creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the Children of God”
 - IF we are the Children of God WE SHOULD HAVE FERTILE HEARTS
 - IF we are the Children of God all creation awaits its revelation FROM US
 - In the midst of darkness, we should bring the light of the world.
 - In the midst of chaos, we should bring order.
 - Amid murders in Nassau, crime, wars and rumors of wars
 - Amid homelessness and hunger right next door
 - With fertile hearts WE SHOULD BEAR FRUIT OF GOD 30, 60, 100 fold
 - Your homework – *What is the state of your heart? Is it fertile soil for the Word of God?*
- Now then – there is another lesson in this Gospel

IF we are living the Christian life – we should not only be fertile soil – we should be sowing seed & If we share our faith – often we get discouraged because we don’t see others coming to the faith Nobody’s hears my witness – I’m not making a difference, why bother (Devil’s Despair)

 - Lonely Old Thomas – outlived by friends, hardly anyone knew him (I brought communion) Thomas died. I went to his funeral because nobody else would. At the grave stood a soldier (green baret), who saluted as casket was lowered. Leaving the grave he said ‘I guess you’re wondering why I’m here’, as a boy Tom taught CCD, I was a tough kid, undisciplined, rowdy & rude. But all I am, and all I’ll ever be, I owe to Tom
 - Tom didn’t know what he was doing or the impact he’d had – but he’d sown seed
 - It’s our job to sow seed and trust the rest to God
 - Your kids, grandkids, friends, co-workers, everyone needs the seed of faith
 - Keep throwing it out there – don’t look for quick results
 - It takes a long time for an acorn to become an oak tree
 - Same is true for the seed of faith dropped into the heart of a man/woman
 - A seed of faith may lay dormant for years & sprout when its needed
 - We live in an age of quick results – but, with faith, we sow in patience & hope
 - Trusting God for the harvest of 30,60, 100 fold

So there are two lessons today – Like good soil WE must be

1. Open – to receive seed of faith
2. Prepared – to hear , willing to learn
3. Understand – what the WOG means and be willing to accept it

4. ACT - **AND** when we act – we should sow seed, trust that God will do the rest