

**Abundance and Frustration**      Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time      Wednesday,  
July 26, 2017    8:15 AM    Ex 16:1-5, 9-15;    **Mt 13:1-9**    Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents  
of the Blessed Virgin Mary    (We can be that fertile land that let's the seed grow or not.)

**“Whoever has ears ought to hear.”**

Again, Jesus is addressing the crowds with parables. **Parables** are conundrums. They are puzzles. They **have to be figured out.**

This parable reflects two things: first of all, the utter frustration that the farmer experienced in sowing seed. Apparently the farmer was very indiscriminate, and there is something indiscriminate about God. **God spreads the potential for life everywhere.** Even in human reproduction there is an enormous amount of potential wasted every time one baby is conceived. There is a lack of discrimination because there's a sense of utter boundlessness. At the same time there's also a great deal of frustration because a lot of the seed is destroyed, wasted. **So there's abundance and frustration at the same time. That's part of the nature of the creation.**

So on the one hand, we can be very happy that there is this abundant harvest, even a hundredfold, which at that time would have been considered a miracle. Today actually we do produce a hundredfold through modern fertilizers. At that time that would have been a miracle. So, yes, **there's a miraculous return to God for his indiscriminate abundance thrown everywhere.** But on the other hand, there's also a cautionary tale here. Jesus is raising the question of: **what kind of reception do we individually give to the seed?** Yes, eventually everything will be abundant. There will be a terrific harvest. But what about us personally? Will we be part of it? Will we have helped? We can; **we can be that fertile land that let's the seed grow or not.**