

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Word of God as Seed Sixteenth Week in Ordinary Time Wednesday, July 24, 2019
Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; **Mt 13:1-9** St. Sharbel Makhluf, priest (We need to have hope because
God's word will be successful.)

“Whoever has ears ought to hear.”

Of course the story of the Sower and the Seed has undergone many interpretations, even at the time of the evangelists themselves, and there are two sides of it. First of all to look at the seed as the word of God, because **the word God is a type of seed and when planted it can yield rich fruit.** So we can think of it first and foremost as the word of God.

Now the point of the parable is that there's a lot of waste. **The word of God is sown all over the place and much of the time it does not take root; it just can't.** The ground on which it falls just isn't acceptable or accepting. Now if we think about this, and even Matthew thought about it, it's indicative of many of the conditions we see in life.

Some people are hardened because, in a way, they have been walked on since they were children, never nurtured, abused, ignored either deliberately or indeliberately; they just grow up hardened. The word of God doesn't enter into them because there's nothing to enter into. **The soul, the mind, the conscience has never been developed.**

Likewise **there are people who are shallow**; they never think about anything. If they think about anything, it's about what they want and how they can get it, but that's not really thinking too much. And so when the word of God enters into their hearing, their ears pick up the word, but their soul, their mind can't really take it in, because there is nothing in which it can grow.

Then there are others who are able to actually hear the word of God, and they are able to actually accept it and make some actual intentional choices about it, but just because it starts doesn't mean it's going to finish. **The planting of the gospel is precarious. It can be choked by all kinds of things, other interests.**

But Jesus' point is **there are people who will hear the word and it will grow in them, and they will produce miraculously a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold.** Well that would be in terms of that period of time completely miraculous harvest.

So the point of the parable is that we have to always recognize that God's work is bearing fruit, even though much of it goes to waste. We needn't worry and we needn't have anxiety because we see failures. **We need to have hope because God's word will be successful.** There will be a bountiful harvest.

Now having taken that and looking at the world, **one could look at oneself in the same way.**