

Sermon

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Isaiah 55:10-11*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *Romans 8:18-23*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *Matthew 13:1-23*

What kind of imagination have you?, the mexican “el Chapo” Guzman once imagined himself as the most powerful drug lord in the world ; his imagination became reality, but he didn’t imagine ending up in a high security prison in New York for the rest of his life ; the imagination of Walt Disney was breath taking, he once sketched a few images of a funny looking mouse with big ears, put them together in double quick succession, and Mickey Mouse was born ; During the 1930’s Adolf Hitler imagined Germany becoming the greatest nation on earth, but first the “Jewish question” had to be dealt with, the power of Hitler’s warped imagination along with his inflated ego ignited the 2nd World War destroying Germany and most of Europe ;

Why were we given an imagination? I suppose to help us reach certain goals and ambitions, also to see the funnier side of life or the sadder side, or we could imagine ourselves as very rich well-to-do people, imagine yourself as a member of the royal family, imagine having dinner with Queen Elizabeth, or imagine your mother-in-law being taken away by aliens !!, you can imagine anything you like, good, bad or indifferent.

In to-day’s Gospel reading Jesus speaks to the people, his first words are **“IMAGINE A SOWER GOING OUT TO SOW.....”** possibly the Lord had them spellbound as he presented the parable of the sower, surely his listeners were people who worked on the land, so in their imagination they must have completely grasped the actions of the sower and the question of the quality of the soil, but did they grasp the meaning of the parable?

2. Do you and I understand what it's about? This parable is about growing in our Faith ; the sower is the Messenger par excellence, Jesus the Saviour ; The seed is the Word of God or the Word of Truth which has the power to lead us to Heaven ; The soil represents those who have received the Word of God, but the reactions are varied, some allow the seed to be taken away from them, some receive the Word with enthusiasm but eventually decide to abandon it because sacrifice is involved, others receive the Word but prefer worldliness instead, "the lure of riches"!! ; Then the last group not only understand the Message of life, but receive it joyfully and persevere in yielding a rich harvest of Faith, prayer and good works, **IMAGINE YOUR SOUL HEADING TOWARDS HEAVEN !!!**

Where growth in our Faith is concerned, are you and I made of the "good soil" as depicted in the parable?, a Faith that is not growing becomes like a neglected garden of flowers, no one cares for the watering nor pruning, little by little things begin to look dry, wilted and unattractive **IMAGINE HOW YOUR SOUL LOOKS WITH NO PRAYER NOR LOVE OF GOD TO SUSTAIN IT'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH !!!**

Throughout my many years working in parishes there's that aspect of parish life that still saddens me, it's the eventual departure of people who "don't bother anymore" with their Faith "...oh I still believe father, it's just that I've more important things to get done....." ;

I remember one case in particular years ago, a very dedicated helpful parishioner and family man suddenly told me he couldn't come to Mass anymore "father, myself and my family have opened a new business for ourselves and it's taking up nearly all our time and effort", and that was that, I never saw him again! **IMAGINE LEAVING YOUR RELIGION BECAUSE WORLDLY ISSUES ARE OF GREATER**

3. CONCERN, of course we are free to prioritize whatever we like, but consequences will eventually come our way.

So what can we learn from the parable of the sower? Does God expect anything from us once we have received the Gift of Faith?

If we have already developed “rich spiritual soil” from within, then God expects us to GROW IN OUR FAITH day by day, month by month, year by year, decade after decade, right up to our last breath on this earth IMAGINE YOUR LAST DAY IN THIS WORLD !!! then afterwards WHAT?

Then afterwards you can present to the Lord your God a rich harvest of Faith followed by good works IMAGINE THE WELCOME YOU’LL RECEIVE !!!

For this Sunday why don’t you and I evaluate the present state of our Faith?, are we maturing spiritually? are we allowing the seed of Faith come to fruition without worldly hindrances?, perhaps in the context of the parable a renewed “YES” to the Lord-of-Life would be in order, and while we’re at it why not offer up a prayer for someone you know who is presently “lost in the sea of life”, and add on another prayer for the many workers who are presently waiting for news about their job situation ; as you know, in the midst of this Pandemic, unemployment is looming everywhere with all the heartache that goes with it IMAGINE HAVING NO INCOME, IMAGINE GOING HUNGRY !!

Stay healthy, keep the Faith....

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