

Sunday Reflection

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Ezekiel 17:22-24*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *2 Corinthians 5:6-10*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *Mark 4:26-34*

“ A MAN THROWS SEED ON THE LAND. NIGHT AND DAY, WHILE HE SLEEPS, WHEN HE IS AWAKE, THE SEED IS SPROUTING AND GROWING, HOW! HE DOES NOT KNOW” ; These readings to-day are about growth, not in the context of arable farming, but more so in the context of spiritual growth. Right now a few miles away Kew Botanical Gardens are bulging with so much natural beauty. All around us during these days of Summer, we see natural growth in bloom, we are enjoying this yearly newness of life ; Mother Nature continues on with or without us ; the 4 seasons express a natural beauty of their own ; On our part we must never interfere in the workings of nature, or else suffer the consequences of a backlash from Mother Nature.

Where do we humans fit in? we are not the owners of life, so where do we fit in? we have been described as GUESTS OF THE EARTH, MADE IN GOD’S IMAGE ; in this context, what are we responsible for? God has given us the responsibility for our own spiritual growth ; The Holy Spirit will help us along the way, but only in so far as we are willing to make the effort.....

Therefore spiritual growth is a relationship between God Holy Spirit and YOU! Do we want spiritual growth to take place in our lives or not? Well of course we do!, this is what we have freely chosen or try to imagine the relationship between a farmer, his land, the seeds he’s about to scatter on his land, the weather and off he goes ; the farmer has to place his trust into a harmonious relationship between the fertile earth, suitable weather and the wonderful workings of Mother Nature “NIGHT AND DAY WHILE HE SLEEPS, WHEN HE IS AWAKE, THE SEED IS SPROUTING AND GROWING, HOW!, HE DOES NOT KNOW”

So is there anything magical or special concerning our inner spiritual growth?, No! there’s not, it’s the work of a lifetime, spiritual growth takes place in our lives thru’ our personal seasons ;

Have you ever gone thru' a season of joy in your life, followed perhaps by a season of inner darkness?, followed by a season of Hope, followed by a season of restlessness, followed by a season of patient endurance, followed by a season of peace and actually enjoying your gift of Faith? ; What spiritual season do you think you are NOW IN on your pilgrim journey towards Heaven? Do you and I continue to say YES to the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is the One who paves the way forward for better spiritual things to come, and all we have to do is keep saying YES to the Spirit of Guidance ;

Lastly, the farmer who works on the land, the land he has tilled and prepared for the sowing-of-the-seeds by the sweat of his brow, he has to stay and observe so that the crop will be of good quality & plentiful...

In like manner, you and I have to persevere and to remain attuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit so that our spiritual growth will blossom and be ready some day for the Eternal Harvest in Heaven....

So in the meantime, let us make full use of everything in our lives that gives us deeper meaningful spiritual roots, roots of life in the Spirit, with the Spirit and thru' the Spirit ...

Something profound to think about, from the Book of Ecclesiasticus 17 ; 28
"ONLY THOSE WITH LIFE AND HEALTH CAN PRAISE THE LORD" can you imagine yourself being very sick in a hospital bed (hopefully never!) and at the same time trying to say your prayers !! forget it!, it'll be next to impossible to pray ; while our good health lasts, we may praise God REJOICE YOU WHO ARE HEALTHY.....

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