

Meditation 2014-02-23
Today is Sexagesima Sunday
Meditation Theme: “Am I Fertile Ground?”

Place yourself in the presence of Jesus Christ. Make sure He knows that every thought, action, and experience of today is dedicated exclusively to Him.

The Scenario: From the Gospel of today’s Mass

At that time, when a very great multitude was gathered together, and hastened out of the cities unto Jesus, He spoke by a similitude. The sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. And other some fell upon a rock: and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And other some fell among thorns, and the thorns growing up with it, choked it. And other some fell upon good ground; and being sprung up, yielded fruit a hundredfold. Saying these things, He cried out: He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And His disciples asked Him what this parable might be. To whom He said: To you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God; but to the rest in parables, that seeing they may not see, and hearing may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. And they by the way side are they that hear; then the devil cometh, and taketh the word out of their heart, lest believing they should be saved. Now they upon the rock, are they who when they hear, receive the word with joy: and these have no roots; for they believe for a while, and in time of temptation, they fall away. And that which fell among thorns, are they who have heard, and going their way, are choked with the cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and yield no fruit. But that on the good ground, are they who in a good and perfect heart, hearing the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit in patience.

Point 1. – This is a parable fully explained by Our Lord. We know what each of the allegorical examples means. The lesson contained is that, in order to bear fruit we need to be “good ground.”

Point 2. – How can I be “good ground?” How can I prepare this field to nurture God’s Word so that it can grow a hundredfold? Think of how to prepare and nurture plants in an earthly garden. What are the spiritual equivalents of weeding and watering?

Point 3. – If, upon self examination, I think I am a well worn wayside, or rock, or a weed patch, what can I do to change that?

Meditation: God uses an analogy that is familiar to everyone – plants growing in the ground. But, if I want to yield fruit a hundredfold, how can I be sure that I am “good ground?” Place what I know of myself into the picture. Do I listen for the word? Am I receptive? Do I try to protect the seeds when they are sown? Do I treat them as if they were precious? It is obvious where I need to be. But before I can make a plan to get there, I have to know where I am now. The Gospel passage tells me that this is what I need to find out. Am I “fertile ground?” I must examine my life. Do I know what sin is? Do I try to avoid sin? Do I try to avoid ALL sin? Do I reserve my favorite sins for special rationalizing so

that I might think of them as “not all that sinful?” What are the diversions in which I take the most delight? Would I share them with my mother? What do I spend most of my time doing? While I am working, what do I think about? Do I yearn for free time? When I have free time, how do I spend it? What are the things that I know I should do or pay attention to, but do not?

How do I prepare my ground to produce fruit? What kind of fertilizer is most lacking? Do I read books that inspire me to devotion? Do I pray? Frequently? Frequently enough? When I pray, am I easily distracted? Do I even try to concentrate? Is the Rosary a part of my daily life? How do I water this field? Do I try to think of ways to avoid it? Do I purposely look for things to do in its place?

Once I know where I am I can make a plan to get from “here” to “there.” It is very good if I am very close to God already, but it is more than likely that I am farther from Him than I presumed. What can I do to get closer? Are there easy ways to do this, or are they all difficult? Am I ready to work on the difficult things in order to get closer to God? What are they? Make a list! Am I ready to wrestle that plow through difficult ground to make the seeds more likely to grow?

Colloquy: Take a minute or two to converse with God, in any of His three Persons, or the Triune God complete in Himself. Tell Him what you have learned from your meditation, and thank Him for it.

Hold the Gain: Consider what you can do to keep the fruits of your meditation. Try to plan how you can think of them through the day, and through the days ahead. Come up with ways you can apply your conclusions to what you do in your everyday life, conversations you engage in, the choice of what movie to watch, what books you choose to read.