

## The Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

### Luke 8:5-15

A 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 some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away. And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. (KJV)

We are blessed to hear the word of God at each Divine Liturgy. We have the opportunity to read the word of God in the comfort and privacy of our homes. The word of God is proclaimed over the airways and on the internet.

Churches offer classes to teach believers more about the word of God. The hunger in the soul yearns for the nourishment provided by the word of God. Too often the word of God falls on deaf ears and is put aside.

When a believer is baptized and takes up the life in Christ, nourishment to grow in Christ is necessary for the remaining days of life. The present Gospel describes what often happens when the word of God is proclaimed.

At times, the word of God falls by the wayside. At other times, the word of God is received but does not have a lasting effect. When the word of God is taken to heart and applied to daily life with patience, fruit is brought forth in life.

God's Holy Church offers the environment to foster the patience and the value of making the word of God a part of daily life. The Church teaches the value of the word of God in the believer's life.

The saints and martyrs through the centuries bear witness to the value of heeding the word of God and keeping it. These are troubling times in the world. The word of God provides sound direction for the pathways of life.

The word of God provides constant and lasting nourishment for the soul. The word of God provides strength to ward off temptations and inclinations to sin. Reading the word of God regularly strengthens the believer.

Hearing the word of God can keep the believer's attention away from perilous thoughts. Coming to church and hearing the Epistle and Gospel readings provides very real lessons for daily life.

The word of God is always timely and relevant. Reading the word of God with regularity is an investment in the Kingdom of God. God's Holy Church prescribes the present Gospel to be read each year because it has lasting value.

The word of God teaches believers about life and life everlasting. The word of God condemns sin and fosters and encourages love. Forgiveness and charity are fundamental to the word of God.

Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection are central to the proclamation of the word of God. The path believers are to take up and follow are contained in the word of God.

The value of prayer, fasting and almsgiving are integral to the word of God. The lives of the prophets, the apostles, and martyrs are embedded in the word of God. Miracles and teachings abound in the word of God.

Believers choose the way daily life is to be lived. Believers decide what is to be read, watched and heard. Much time in daily life is wasted. The time of earthly life is limited and never returns.

Taking time to listen carefully to the word of God and study the word of God is always beneficial. Earnestly applying the word of God to daily life takes initiative, effort and commitment.

Conscious decision-making is involved in applying the word of God to daily life. Each person hearing the Gospel in the church has the opportunity to make the Gospel lesson a part of the days of life.

Love of God is manifested when a believer cherishes the word of God. Love of God is demonstrated when the believer earnestly puts the word of God into practice each day.

God's Holy Church is where to best hear the word of God. God's Holy Church is best where to learn about the word of God. God's Holy Church celebrates the word of God.

Each year on Pascha, believers hear the reading from the first chapter of the Gospel of St. John. St. John's Gospel begins in this way: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." (Jn. 1:1)

The Church's Feast of Feasts celebrates the Paschal Divine Liturgy focusing on the Word as God. When the believer makes the word of God an integral part of life, God is experienced and the believer becomes new in Jesus Christ.

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The Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Wonderworkers and Unmercenaries Cosmas and Damian. November 1/14, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic