

## 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)

The word of God is proclaimed and sown in God's Holy Church. Attentive believers cherish the word of God and keep it. Serious believers bring forth good fruit when keeping the word of God.

The devil is always present to snatch the word of God from the hearts of inattentive believers. Hard times arise in the world and believers without a firm grip on God's word will have the word torn from their hearts.

Cares of the world and temptations are always present to lure the believer away from the life in Christ. The word of God is jeopardized when believers become enmeshed with daily cares and do not use the word of God as strength.

Serious believers find strength and direction for life in the word of God. Faithful believers experience joy in reading the word of God. The word of God offers safe refuge in times of great difficulty.

Healing emanates from reading the word of God. God's love is revealed and becomes known through reading the word of God. The life and teachings of Jesus Christ are synonymous with God's word.

St. John's Gospel equates Jesus Christ with the word of God. On Pascha St. John's Gospel is proclaimed in celebration of Jesus Christ' Resurrection and speaks about the Word becoming flesh.

The word of God is present for believers to hear in the churches and to read wherever believers are located. Reading and studying the word of God is an investment in the Kingdom of God.

The parable of the sower describes different experiences of those who hear the word of God. Each person chooses the value to ascribe to the word of God for personal life.

The Gospel of St. Luke is always read during feasts of the Mother of God.

Believers are reminded during these feasts of Jesus' words. Jesus said: "blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it. (Lk. 11:28)

Each moment believers choose the way to use the time of life. Reading and keeping the word of God is a secure investment in the Kingdom of God. Wise believers choose to invest extensively in God's Kingdom.

The Divine services of the Church are completely rooted in God's word. The Epistle and Gospel readings are central to the Divine Liturgy. Documentation exists of the extent God's words form and shape the Divine services.

The Psalter is known as the perfect prayer book. The Gospel is always on the Altar Table in the Church. The parable of the sower reaffirms the value of God's word for attentive listeners.

Life is challenging from birth to departure. The soul needs strength and nourishment constantly. God's word serves as the guide through life from birth to life eternal.

The millions of people that have lived under communism and other oppressive forms of government where God's word is banned cherish the opportunity to learn of God's word.

People blessed to live in the free world should be ever-grateful for having God's word constantly present. God's Church has withstood the perils of the centuries while guarding and expanding the spread of God's word.

Each believer has the responsibility to hear the word of God and keep it. This responsibility was accepted at Holy Baptism. The commitment is intended for everyday of life following Baptism.

Believers hearing God's word and keeping it experience joy and peace. Life is lived fully when God's word is central to the heart, mind and soul. Growth in Christ continues as the word of God is heeded.

Thank God for the parable of the sower being proclaimed in the Church. God's love spreads with the spread of God's word. God's saving grace is revealed in God's word.

The value believers ascribe to God's word is reflected in daily life. Keeping God's word will lead to eternal life. Each person chooses each moment whether to hear the word of God and keep it.

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