

## 15<sup>TH</sup> WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A – 16<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2023

The Parable of the Sower is about Generosity...God's generosity. We all know the story well...we've heard it hundreds of times throughout our lives. Because of this we tend to hear it from the same perspective over and over again. We hear the story and we immediately wonder about ourselves...am I the rocky ground or am I the thorny bush or I certainly don't want to be the trampled path... I'd like to be the good soil. Or we might even think... thank God I'm the good soil... but I don't know about him or her. Isn't it true... this is how we almost always hear Jesus' parable? Today though... I want us to move around to the other side of the story, to consider the parable not simply as a reflection on the condition of the soil of our lives but as a story telling of God's Generosity.

The Sower is God. And what's interesting is that he's not very calculating with his seeds. In fact he's pretty reckless... He's not careful or scientific with His planting. He doesn't take one seed and place it perfectly in the correct spot so that the plant will grow for sure. He throws it all over the place,... indiscriminately... without measure... irrespective of the quality of the soil... in all directions. God is generous and He will never stop giving.

The truth is that God knows that during our lives we will resemble each of the four areas mentioned in the parable. At some time or another our lives resemble the rocky ground, the thorny shrub, the trampled path, but there will also be times when we will resemble the good soil where God's Word will take root and grow, when we respond to Him. God the Sower throws the seeds out everywhere because we are sometimes all over the place. And that's the Good News for today. He'll never stop trying to reach us. So today's parable is all about God's generosity but it's also about patience. We need to be patient with ourselves because He's patient with us. If you feel you're on rocky ground, being scorched by the heat of life's trials, or in danger of being choked by the thorns of worldly concerns, hang on right at the moment hang on and be patient. God has an unlimited supply of seeds and he will continue to sow. He knows that eventually his seeds will land on our healthy... rich... soil in the gardens of our hearts.

God never sows His seed in vain; and His seed has a pulsating life of its own which, in spite of pecking birds, scorching sun and choking thorns will eventually spring up through the chinks of our spiritual concrete. And that is why, in the words of an

Easter hymn, we can dare to hope that in those *'fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been, love will come again, like wheat that springs up green'*.