

Daily Homily

3 Week in Ordinary Time, Wednesday

27 January 2021

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I love Bishop Barron's take on this Gospel, the parable of the Sower and the seed. He says usually when we hear this parable it's all about what kind of soil are you now in your life... where is the seed falling in your life? That's all good and great, and that is usually the go-to explanation. But there is more to it than just that.

He says that it also misses the great point of what is intended by the parable. Jesus told this to his contemporary farmers. On hearing how careless the sower was with the seed, they would simply roll their eyes. Seed costs money. If one is going to utilize it effectively, you would control where the seed would go. You would make sure that they all are planted well and in rich soil. This is certainly not the case with this sower. He extravagantly throws it all over the place, he throws it at the rocks, at the weeds, at the thorns as well as the soil.

So it is with God the sower. God lavishly and messily throws His word out to everyone knowing full well it will be received or not. God is generous with His insight, with His wisdom, with His grace, with His life.

It goes along with Jesus' challenge to love enemies. If we only love those who are easy to love, don't tax collectors do the same? So who are the rocks in your life, who are the thorns, who are the weeds in your life – generously share your life with them as well, generously pray for them. OR ... how are you a rock, a thorn, or superficial weed to God? Let him lavishly and generously give you the grace and love you need, even there.

(Bishop Barron's Reflection is on the next page)

Bishop Barron's Reflection on this Gospel:

Friends, in today's Gospel, Jesus tells the parable of the sower.

In this famous story of the sower, we often focus on the different types of soil and apply them symbolically to ourselves. Now, there is nothing wrong with this interpretation as far as it goes, but I think that it misses what was at the heart of the parable for Jesus.

Focus your attention on this absolutely mad sower. Imagine a crowd of farmers listening to this parable: a man goes out to sow and he throws the seed on the path, on rocky soil, on thorny soil, and finally on good soil. The original hearers of this tale would have exchanged glances and rolled their eyes at the ridiculousness of this farmer.

That was precisely the reaction that Jesus wanted. For God is like this crazy farmer, sowing the seed of his word and his love—not only on receptive soil, not only to those who will respond, but also on the path, on the rocks, and among the thorns, lavishly pouring out his love on those who are least likely to respond. God's love is irrational, extravagant, embarrassing, unreasonable, completely over the top.