

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME MATTHEW

1. Isaiah says God's word is very powerful
 - a. Like rain that waters the earth
 - b. Or seed that provide bread for humans
 - c. Claims that God's word will not be empty
 - d. Provides life to the seed
 - e. So that the seed can become bread to feed us and give us life
2. We might wonder is the Word of God is really that powerful?
 - a. If it really was powerful, shouldn't it make a difference in world or even in our lives
 - b. It is easy to take God for granted or to ignore His Word
 - c. How often do we turn to the bible when we are struggling with something in life
 - d. Do we ever come to the church to simply listen for God in our hearts
 - e. Some think only science gives us answers or
 - f. maybe we do not have time for God or science
 - g. We will go with whatever the popular opinion is on any issue
 - h. Does God really make that much difference to us
3. if so powerful, why do we have such difficulty recognizing God's presence or even hearing his word in our lives
 - a. Jesus answer is in the parable
 - b. God's word is the seed but we provide the soil for His word
 - c. God insists on respecting our freedom so he will not force us to listen to Him
4. At any moment in our life we provide one or another kind of soil
 - a. Parable invites us to consider what type of soil we are providing
 - b. Are we the rocky soil
 - i. Bible and sacraments are attractive
 - ii. Sense of being a follower of Christ seems attractive
 - iii. But after a while faith is not so exciting
 - iv. or maybe difficult because it is not as popular as religion once was.
 - v. Who wants to be looked down on as either hypocrites or ignorant fools
 - vi. Lacking depth in lives we look other places for excitement or comfort
 - c. Perhaps we are the soil filled with weeds
 - i. God begins to touch us, faith and sacraments are important at first
 - ii. Earning a living, collecting wealth, having fun begin to take over our lives

- iii. After a while we forget about faith or relegate it to just Sundays
 - iv. Rather than being an important part of our everyday life
 - v. We may look for excuses to take vacations from God talk
 - d. Either of these choices leave us as fruitless and useless people in God's eyes
 - i. God acts to bless us
 - ii. But we ignore him and wonder why we never find satisfaction in life
- 5. Jesus invites us to make ourselves into rich soil. Ready to receive his Word
 - a. We become rich soil by being attentive and committed to our faith
 - b. prayer and sacraments become moments of meeting and coming to know Jesus in our lives
 - c. Rich soil when faith enables us to be committed both in painful moments of life and in the busy moments of life
 - d. Rather than be people being bounced around by popular movements, we become a people grounded and committed to God
- 6. If we ground ourselves in God, we can be become a fruitful people,
 - a. If we allow God's word to touch us in our spirits, we will find true refreshment in our lives and know hope when we are troubled