Friday, July 23, 2021 Gospel Matt. 13 18-23.Homily by Deacon Luis P. Villanueva for 8AM Mass on at St. Joseph Church, Fr. Antonio Hernandez, Pastor - Ex. 20:1-17; Psalm: 19:1,9,10,11;

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, amen.

The Word of God is Jesus, therefore the Word of God is perfect, refreshing for the soul, gives wisdom to the simple, makes the heart rejoice, is pure and enduring forever, is true and just, more precious than a heap of purest gold and sweeter than syrup or honey from the comb.

The Word of God gives us life and God's best; we are the ones who decide to either listen and obey his Word or reject it and disobey it.

The healts of mankind. says Jesus in the Gospel of today, are in different stages of preparation to receive the Word of God.

Jesus says there are some people whose hearts are like the soil on a hard path. Those people hear the Word of God but don't understand it/ or not able make any sense of it, , doesn't even develop roots and quickly dies.

Other people are in a stage in which their hearts are like a rocky ground, who hear the Word, get excited but have little commitment, and as soon as they go through some hard times or they get challenged they give in and fall away.

Still others hear the Word, also get excited but are too focused and involved with the things of the world that they allow the Word to be choked up like THORNY soil with worldly lures and doesn't bear fruit.

But some hearts are like rich soil which hear the Word, understand it, begin to put it to use in their lives, and share it with others producing abundant fruit.

Through this parable Jesus teaches us to examine our spiritual life so that we may know which stage we fall in and which stage we need to be in that we may become mature and productive disciples.

Are we then producing fruit? If yes, how much fruit have we produced? How many souls have repented, been converted and transformed and saved because of us hearing the Word, understanding it and sharing it with others?

Have we shared it with our children, family members, and those around us who are not producing fruit?

Every person has a different background on how they come to know the Word of God and in the preparation for their disposition to hear and understand the Word of God.

Homily by Deacon Luis P. Villanueva for 07-23-21 (cont'd) Page 2

God is a loving, compassionate God and is patient with all ofus his children as to how and when we get to the point where our hearts are like rich soil.

Our mission is to continue to sow the Seed ofthe Good News of Salvation to all those around us. It is not up to us to make the Seed ofthe Word ofGod grow in the hearts of those we share it with. That is forthe Lord. It is our responsibility to keep sowing the Seed/Word of God.

The Lord promises blessings and a plentiful harvest of a hundred, or sixty or thirty fold to those who have listened to the Word of God, persevered in remaining faithful to it and in sharing it with others. God bless you.

Hoy el Señor, usando la parábola del sembrador, nos enseña que existen etapas en las que el corazón de las personas se encuentra en la escucha de la Palabra de Dios.

Esta enseñanza nos permite ver en qué etapa nos encontramos y en qué etapa debemos estar.

Jesús nos enseña que existen cuatro etapas que son: suelo duro, suelo pedregoso, suelo espinoso y suelo fértil. Y que la mejor etapa para estar es un suelo fertile y que produce frutos abundantes.

Esto se debe a que al ser tiena fértil podemos escuchar la Palabra de Dios, entenderla bien y dar frutos abundantes.

Nos preguntarnos, ¿estoy en la etapa de tierra fértil? Si es así, cuanta fruta hemos producido? ¿Cuántas almas se han arrepentido, convertido, transformado y salvado gracias a que escuchamos la Palabra, la entendemos y la compartimos con los demás?

Cada persona tiene una vida diferente sobre cómo llega a conocer la Palabra de Dios y en la preparación para su disposición a escuchar y comprender la Palabra de Dios.

Dios es un Dios amoroso y compasivo y es paciente con todos nosotros, sus hijos, en cuanto a cómo y cuándo llegamos al punto en que nuestros corazones son como tierra fértil.

El Señor promete bendiciones y una abundante cosecha de cien, sesenta o treinta veces a aquellos que han escuchado la Palabra de Dios, que han perseverado en permanecer fieles a ella y la han compartido con los demás. Dios te bendiga.