

JULY 10, 2011
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Jesus explained the parable of the sower and the seeds. The explanation is simple but rich in meaning. The seed that falls along the path refers to those who hear the message about God's reign without understanding it. They fall prey to those who steal what was sown in the mind. The seed that falls on rocky ground represents those who first receive God's message with joy but abandon it as soon as difficulties are experienced. The seeds that fall among thorn bushes stand for those who hear the message but the worries about this life and the love of riches choke the message, and they don't bear fruit.

How often have we felt that we were those seeds at one time or the other? I have experienced the footpath, the rocky ground and the entrapment of the seeds in the thorny bushes. The latter is a very particular way that applies to me too often.

When I am touched by God's Word, I make wonderful resolutions. I feel such joy and love that I am determined to move whatever obstacle presents itself. I feel strengthened to embrace the reign of God. But then the speed of daily events overtakes me. I find myself immersed, not so much in the Word of God, but in meeting deadlines. At such times I am inclined to agree with Steven Wright who says, "I think that God is going to come down and pull civilization over for speeding."

The last part of the parable can give us cause to rejoice. It tells us that the seed that falls on fertile ground produces a hundred, or seventy, or thirty-fold. When I think of the many possibilities, I am encouraged to believe that God is reminding us of the work of co-creation that He has given us. Our own CDP Constitution states: "... we are co-creators of a new world and give witness to its values: interdependence and collaboration in a spirit of humble service" (#48). But *the* work of co-creation is a process, an ever-developing one. It is not automatic. It requires commitment and re-commitment sustained by prayer. Are we: not reminded by our CDP Constitution (#57) that "Prayer gradually teaches us to trust, to be simple and poor and to serve"?

--Sr. Marian Frances Margo, CDP

For reflection or sharing:

- ▲ What is one way that you tend to be like the seed in the parable?
- ▲ How can the process of co-creation be a source of hope for us?