

October 15, 2017: The 21st Sunday after Pentecost (The parable of the sower)

Epistle: Gal. 2:16-20:

Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. “But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is Christ therefore a minister of sin? Certainly not! For if I build again those things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Gospel: Luke 8:5-15:



“A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold.” When He had said these things He cried, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear!” Then His disciples asked Him, saying, “What does this parable mean?” And He said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables, that ‘Seeing they may not see, And hearing they may not understand.’ “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.

What a beautiful parable! Only Christ, the Good Teacher, could come up with such a great analogy between the seeding of land and the spreading (seeding) the word of God in the minds and souls of people. By working the land (the oldest profession in the history of mankind), man was (is) able to provide for his physical existence: *"In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;"* (Gen. 3:19). As a spiritual being, man is also required to strengthen his communion with God. In order to do so, he must work just as hard on his spiritual endeavor. First, he must be receptive to the word of God, the spiritual seed: *The seed is the word of God*. At the same time, he must exercise a great deal of vigilance in order to prevent the word from being taken away by his spiritual enemies *"then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved"* or *"choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life."*

A constant awareness of the dangers that lurk out there, in combination with a good character, true desire to be a good steward of God's message and patience, constitute the success for man's spiritual progress: *But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience.*

Fr. George Bazgan

Altar boys for this Sunday:

**Matthew Cotfasa
Arsenie Gavriş**

Sunday Fellowship

**The following families are scheduled to look after
this Sunday's fellowship:**

**Apostol Alexandru & Georgeta
Bacivan Milan & Cornelia
Stoica Emilian & Simona**

Thank you all very much!

MEMBERSHIP / PLEDGE

The Board of Directors extends a warm appeal to all supporters of our parish, asking them **to pay their membership as soon as possible.**

This way we can ensure that we have the necessary funds to fulfill our financial obligations for the rest of the year.

We also encourage you to **renew your financial pledge** and be as generous as you can.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!