

Chelmsford Cathedral – Prayer for Today

SATURDAY 18 September 2021



O Lord, open our lips
and our mouth shall proclaim your praise!
You tend and water the land. How wonderful the harvest!
You fill your springs, ready the seeds, prepare the grain.
You soak the furrows and level the ridges.
With softening rain you bless the land with growth.
Words from Psalm 65

As you enter into prayer today, take a moment to be still. Come into God's presence with a deepfelt desire to meet with God now. Know that God is the God who sees you and that God is looking at you now with great love. Pause for a moment and be still.

May the richness of your creation, O God,
and the mystery of your sovereign rule,
lead us to that heavenly city
where all peoples will bring their wealth,
forsake their sins and find their true joy
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

"A sower went out to sow..." says Jesus and then, once he has told the parable, goes on to explain it in detail. This is it is a puzzling for us as this is the most obvious of Jesus' parables. Surely it is absolutely clear what it means. But Jesus' first hearers clearly needed a detailed explanation. That gives us pause for thought. Jesus is explicit that parables are not meant to be easily understood. Indeed, it is characteristic of his parables that they can bear several interpretations. They are opened ended, and invite to think, to puzzle, to ponder. So today spend some time pondering this over familiar parable and ask God to show you where the seed falls in your life.

Luke 8.4-15

When a great crowd gathered and people from town after town came to Jesus, he said in a parable: 'A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture. Some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it. Some fell into good soil, and when it grew, it produced a hundredfold.' As he said this, he called out, 'Let anyone with ears to hear listen!' Then his disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, 'To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that "looking they may not perceive, and listening they may not understand."' 'Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones on the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. The ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy. But these have no root; they believe only for a while and in a time of testing fall away. As for what fell among the thorns, these are the ones who hear; but as they go on their way, they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. But as for that in the good soil, these are the ones who, when they hear the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance.

*Spend some time reflecting on the reading, mulling it over.
Ask God what God wants you to hear today.*

*Offer your personal prayers and thanksgivings
and offer the day to God in a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving.*

End this time of prayer by saying the Lord's Prayer.

*To keep in touch and for more resources for daily prayer
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