

Homily – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10)

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23 By Fr. Carlos

Have you ever felt discouraged because you couldn't see the results of your efforts?

Perhaps you have prayed for someone for years without seeing a change. Perhaps you have invited a friend to church again and again, and they have never come. Perhaps you wonder whether anything you do for God really makes a difference.

The disciples may have felt the same way. They had seen rejection. Not everyone welcomed Jesus or accepted the message of the Kingdom. So Jesus tells them a simple story: “A sower went out to sow.” The sower scatters seed everywhere. Some seed is lost, some struggles, and some bears abundant fruit. The point is simple: the sower never stops sowing.

The same message appears throughout today's readings. God says through Isaiah: “So shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty.” (Isaiah 55:11). The Psalm reminds us: “You visit the earth and water it abundantly.” (Psalm 65:9). God provides the seed. God sends the rain. God brings the harvest. Our job is simply to keep sowing.

There is a variety of bamboo that seems to show no growth for a long time. Beneath the surface it is developing deep roots. Then, when the time is right, it grows remarkably fast. Faith often works that way. We do not always see what God is doing, but He is working beneath the surface.

So today I want to ask three simple questions:

- Where is Redeemer sowing?
- Where is your family sowing?
- Where are you sowing?

Brothers and sisters, do not become discouraged because you cannot see the harvest. The Lord has never asked us to produce it. He has only asked us to keep sowing, because the harvest has always belonged to God.

So let us leave this church with one mission this week: plant one seed of faith, one act of love, one word of hope. Trust the promise of God: “My word shall not return to me empty.” (Isaiah 55:11)

Amen.