

Lent Day 3
Friday March 12, 2016

Reading: Mark 4.1-12

Reflection

Jesus isn't a mystic, or some sort of guru. He isn't a Yoda type, speaking in riddles and weird cadences. Jesus is the Messiah and he is here to announce the kingdom and despite what it looks like from the Isaiah quote his hope is for people to hear his words and enter into the kingdom, into life.

The problem is there is a disconnect between the speaker, Jesus, agent of the kingdom and the hearers, Israel, in exile, under the bondage of sin. To speak and act directly is to bring rejection of the message and the agent — remember just yesterday his family thought him crazy and the leadership thought him demonic. So, he begins to speak in parables, the medium should flag the Israelites to pay special attention because that's what Isaiah is warning!

The parable describes Jesus' methods and role — he is scattering seed. At one level it is a warning to us. How has God been speaking? How have we been receiving? The word certainly is meant to awaken us to we might beware the dangers of bad soil. But at another level this parable is about our mission.

One of my college professors would remind us that this parable is being shared with the church because it is the church. "What Jesus was to Israel, the church is to the world." This reading mean that it is about mission. That is an important reminder at the time of Lent when we are doing self examination and seeking to come back to core identity. We are the church and the church is God's agent in the world scattering seed and praying for an ever growing harvest.

So, do some self reflection. What is God saying to you? How have you been responding to it? Good soil or bad soil? Obedient or disobedient? But, don't stop there. Are you being the church? Are you scattering seed? Is your focus beyond yourself, widening to a God level field of vision? Are you praying for the growing harvest?

Prayer

Lord of the harvest, we confess that you speak but having ears we do not hear. Forgive us and give us the ears to hear and the heart to respond to you. Make of us good soil. But more, give us your vision of the church for the world. Make me a sower and produce an abundant crop!
Amen.