

There is no doubt that our Lord, Jesus is a master teacher and parables were paramount to his divine curriculum. In fact Matthew records that Jesus “did not say anything without using a parable.” And since farming was a vital part of life around Galilee, Jesus naturally gravitated to this vocation when making his points.

The first parable described a farmer who sowed seed but didn't have an understanding of its process of growth. Just image how the crowd chuckled when Jesus described the farmer rising day and night to go out and check the growth of the crop he had sowed. His many trips to the field were not going to hasten the outcome of his work. Plants grow and mature in their own time.

Hence we are drawn into the second parable, when seeds begin to grow; even the smallest ones can produce abundantly. The mustard seed even though it is so tiny can be the genesis of something very big.

That master teacher is making it very clear to us the students that in order for the Kingdom to grow its seeds need to be sown. The farmers of that time had no problem tossing the seeds willy

nilly, here and there in order to cover a large area. If we want to be the effective sowers of God's word then we have to engage in the act of scattering the word all over the place. While we may work hard at protecting the word, defending it, studying it and worshiping with it, it is crucial that we also become good stewards of the word sharing it with others in all areas of our life. This scattering of the word is going to take courage, determination and faith.

We sow this seed every time we love others without expecting anything in return. We sow this seed every time live by God's word and display a spirit of forgiveness while holding at bay the temptation to hold grudges and harbor thoughts of revenge.

I think it is appropriate that we hear this message on the weekend when we celebrate fatherhood. The most successful fathers give counsel without weighing how popular they will be. They work to provide for their families without counting the cost and they lead by example.

A few small loving kind acts can bring more of a yield at harvest time than hundreds of words or speeches. It was St Francis of Assisi who drove this point home when he said, “Preach everywhere you go and if necessary use words.”

We should never underestimate the power of a kind word, a hug, or even a smile. Our job as a follower of Christ is to sow the seed, trust the seed to work, and celebrate the harvest whenever it comes. By trusting in the growth potential we witness the miracle of great harvests coming from small beginnings. The Kingdom of God will come among us on God’s terms in God’s way at God’s time and for God’s glory. Imagine the joy that will come from that harvest.