

The Sower and the Seed

A PRAYER MEDITATION FROM *AMBASSADORS OF JESUS CHRIST*

"You have been destined by God to cultivate these young plants." (Meditation No. 193.3)

FIRST MOVEMENT

- 1. Take a few minutes to recollect yourself and call to mind the presence of God in all of the natural beauty of creation which surrounds you.**

"The glory of Yahweh fills the whole earth." (Num 14:21)

- 2. Ask that God might help you to be one with the will of God for his creation.**

"Many are the plans in one's mind, but it is the purpose of Yahweh that will be established." (Pr 19:21)

SECOND MOVEMENT

- 3. Contemplate the Mystery of God's Love at Work in the World**

Read the following Scripture passage slowly. What words or phrases especially catch your attention? Listen to what is being said. Watch what happens. Try to become part of the Mystery. Lovingly contemplate Jesus Christ as he sows new seeds of life in the world and in your own life.

"One day a farmer went out sowing. Part of what was sown landed on the footpath, where birds came and ate it up. Part of it fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprouted at once since the soil had no depth: but when the sun rose and scorched it, it began to wither for lack of roots. Again, part of the seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked it. Part of it finally landed on good soil and yielded grain a 100 or 60 or 30 fold. Let everyone heed what is heard!

Mark well then the parable of the sower. The seed along the path is the one who hears the message about God's reign without understanding it. The evil one approaches and steals away that which was sown in that one's mind. The seed that fell on patches of rock is the one who hears the message and, at first, receives it with joy. But that one has no roots; so it lasts for only a time. When some setback or persecution concerning the message occurs, that one soon falters. What was sown among the briars is that which is heard, but

then worldly anxiety or the lure of money choke it off. Such a one produces no yield. But what was sown on good soil is that one who hears the message and takes it in. This is the one who bears a yield of 100- or 60- or 30-fold." (Mt 13:3-9, 18-23)

4. Reflect on the Mystery of God's Love at Work in Your Own Life

Allow the following passages to shed some light on difficulties you might be experiencing with some of those with whom you are working.

"The young people sent to you either have no instruction or have learned things badly. If perchance some have been taught properly, bad companions and bad habits have prevented them from profiting thereby. God sends them to you, therefore, that you may instill in them the Christian spirit, and bring them up in accordance with the teaching of the Gospel." (Meditation No. 37.2)

"Consider that it is only too common for the children of the working class and the poor to be allowed to live on their own, roaming all over. ... The results of this condition are regrettable. These unfortunate children, ... through association with bad companions, learn to commit many faults which, having been contracted over a long period of time, are difficult to stop." (Meditation No. 194.1)

You have two kinds of children to instruct: those who are idlers and inclined to misbehavior and those who are good or who, at least, have a tendency to be good. Pray continually for both ... and more especially for those who are prone to misbehaving." (Meditation No. 186.3)

Do these passages relate to the ministry you are doing?

Are there perhaps some students for whom you would like to spend some moments now in prayer?

What will help you to be better able to cultivate these young plants that God has entrusted to your care?

THIRD MOVEMENT

5. Resolve to Be More Open to the Work of the Spirit in and Through You Today

If you choose to allow this Scripture to come alive in you now, what would you have to change in your life? What are the obstacles to this change?

Where is the Spirit drawing you to sacrifice yourself today that others may have life?

This prayer meditation is an excerpt from *Ambassadors of Jesus Christ: Prayer Meditations for Christian Educators* (1995) by Brother William Mann, FSC, Brother Henry Dissanayke, FSC, and Brother Isaias Tzegay, FSC. This book contains 35 meditations that invite one to enter into the three movements of Saint John Baptist de La Salle's *Method of Interior Prayer*.