

17. 7. 72

16. 7. 73 ✓

17. 7. 75 ✓

Prayer of St Francis [Another Verse]

Our Father (RHK CHA-2)
Holy, Holy (RHK-DBR-10)

ORD. PREFACE

One of the best-known, longest and most fully explained of our Lord's parables must be the one about the farmer going out to sow seed, and the seed falling on to different kinds of earth. For His listeners too, it must have been one of the most vivid of all our Lord's descriptions, an everyday scene they were familiar with, given a new meaning and symbolism. Yet what He wanted to say was not immediately clear: as St Matt. in his gospel makes the point that our Lord deliberately spoke in such parables so that His meaning had to be puzzled over by those who really wanted to know what His message was, who were open to receive what He wanted to give. ^{The explanation in} ~~found~~ ^{found} ~~explaining~~ ^{explaining} His point to His close friends and associates is still like what prayer is about, and why people need to pray if they are serious about listening to God & trying to find out what is His will and His way. If we want to know what God's message is, we've got to communicate with Him as well as He with us, for communication is a two-way process. To read the signs of the times, to understand what God wants to tell us about ourselves and about our world today, we've got to talk to Him — otherwise His action in the world and in our lives, the action of the Holy Spirit today, remains a parable, a nice story perhaps, whose meaning escapes us. We look around, we see what's happening, we hear news, but our eyes do not see, our ears do not hear the message of God, unless we are like Christ's disciples close enough to Him to be able to ask and to be able to receive, accept and understand

St Matt's Gospel of

His explanation. The parable of the sower is itself about the word of God, the ^{kingdom} ~~message~~ of God coming into the world, and being received in various ways, from total unreceptiveness to being effective in producing the result and fruit God wants. We're perhaps more used to taking the parable in a general sense, of the different kinds of people to whom God's word comes and their varying states of ^{preparedness} preparation to receive it. But there's also a personal application that's worth thinking about — our own different degrees of receptiveness to God at different times, or on different aspects of what He wants to tell us. There are things that we don't want to hear, and just as in ordinary human life and relationships between people, we do have ways and means of not hearing — it isn't necessarily conscious either. You know sometimes how difficult it is to get through to someone: as good people too have their blind spots, or their deaf spots. What God wants to say, the message of the revelation in scripture and in Christ, of His providence in the guidance of our lives and in what happens in the world, isn't a consensus of what we think is best or ought to be done — the 10 commandments, for instance, are not what a public-opinion poll would come up with as a guide to living as God wants us to in keeping with our nature as He made it and as He plans for us. So in other ways too, there are seeds which God sows which fall on rocky & stony ground, and we never give ourselves a chance to receive them, even though we do receive and accept with joy and with fruit other seeds of God's sowing. Only in heaven will we be completely open and prepared to receive from God his love and joy & everything. He wishes to give us — here, we keep working at it; and intimacy with God in prayer is the only way we can really be prepared and become more open to hear & see what He wants

us to hear and see. Think about it, prayerfully, a moment now, listening to this ~~testimony~~

Song, ~~You will see Jesus~~
Gather Christ

[RHX CNA-E.2]

MUSIC (DEP.10)

PRAYERS

Mtt. 13 reading.