



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

SERMON
July 13, 2014

Let anyone with ears listen!!!!

- I. Game of phone conversation, eye witnesses of event, interpretations of my sermons
 - a. What is it we hear? How do we listen? We are asked to listen – what will we hear? Let anyone with ears listen.
- II. A sower went out to sow. The seeds that are sown fall on different sorts of soil. They grow in different ways. What kind of seeds are they? How are they sown? By whom are they sown? Those are my questions.
- III. First- the seed. Four times Jesus speaks of the one who hears the word. The one who hears the word – the seed that is being sown must be the word of God – the word of the kingdom- the word of the Lord. The seed being sown is the word – the word that gives life – the word that grows – the word that produces- bears fruit and yields. Let anyone with ears listen.
- IV. But those seeds grow at different rates, in different soils, with different yields. I think it is obvious that this parable is being told for the people to recognize that they are the soil, they are the ones receiving the word of the Lord, the words of life. So, some soil/people do not understand, some people let other priorities choke out their listening and receiving of the word, some get distracted, some pay close attention.
- V. However, while the seed is the word, and the soil is people, I think the state of the soil changes season to season through the times of our lives. So, scripture has been read today – and some of you listened, some of you were distracted, some of you didn't understand what you heard, and some of you went – wow, I've never heard that before. That's who we all are as human beings. We hear a conversation, we witness an event, we try to make sense of a sermon – and we all receive it – we all harvest it a little differently. So, needless to say, our growth in the word of God develops in fits and starts, fits and starts and restarts. Let anyone with ears listen.

- VI. How many of us plant our gardens over and over – often hoping for different results this season? I know this perennial will grow in this region – I am trying it again. I guess last winter was too hard on x,y, or z so I will restart those plants again. This spring was too cold, this summer was too dry, this frost came too early. The point is – we reseed, and we reseed, and we keep reseeding. We keep getting chances to hear, to listen, to be filled with the word – the word that gets sown. Let anyone with ears listen.
- VII. And who is the sower – how does that seed get spread? Certainly foremost the sower is the Holy Trinity – the power and presence of God, the witness of Jesus the Christ, the supporting gifts of the Holy Spirit. Pay attention. We have books of Holy Scripture – they contain the seed. We have other Holy writings that also spread the seed. We have teachers, and elders, and evangelists, missionaries who very purposefully travel and spread the seed of God’s word. Let anyone with ears listen.
- a. I have just returned from Scotland and northern England- where the land is dotted with these enduring Celtic crosses where saints and missionaries have spread the word. I have visited the abbeys, the monasteries, and the churches that have lasted for over 1500 years.
 - b. We gather today and remember a time of rendezvous from the mid-1800’s in our history – when a Father DeSmet, the Whitmans and Samuel Parker, Father Roberts and Bishop Spaulding came to this place and the lands nearby. So many have gone before us spreading seed, hoping for growth. That seed – the Word of God is spread or mediated or shared through people and through the mysteries of faith. Let anyone with ears listen.
- VIII. I loved my two weeks and the time on the pilgrimage. I was so excited to see these new places and learn more of the history and have new experiences. But what I wasn’t expecting – what surprised me the most – was the power and grounding I received from worshipping often and everywhere.
- a. In our eight and ½ days together I worshipped 18 times. I only say this because is totally surprised me that this was so. I did not set out to be a goody two shoes and worship, worship, worship. I set out to have fun. But what happened is that the words of the many and different services sustained me, changed me, delighted me. I loved the different settings, the different groups who gathered, the different language that was used in the prayers. The different voices that sang together.
 - b. I realize I was being reseeded over and over and it was taking growth. It was joining with other roots already within me. I was receiving an explosion of fruit and growth and yield in my life. The seeds were abundant and I felt renewed and found and find myself in a very broad and rich and abundant place. It is a place filled with the words of life. Let anyone with ears listen.

Thanks be to God.