

Heavenly Father, we thank you for allowing us to see another day. We pray that you continue to fertilize the soil of our hearts for your glory. We pray that you continue to keep all of us safe from this pandemic. In Jesus Christ's name we pray. Amen.

In our gospel reading for today, Jesus sat by the lake, and the crowd gathered around him. He told them the parable of the sower. Our reading comes in two distinct parts. Jesus tells the parable and explains its meaning to His disciples.

Who qualifies as good soil?

Brothers and sisters could this parable be a question to ask ourselves how we can make the soil in our hearts more fertile.

What kind of dirt are we?

Who are we as a body of Christ?

As Christians, what message do we spread around our communities?

Our Lord is not just describing different types of soil or circumstances of life. He is talking about our inner self. We have several different landscapes inside our hearts. The reality is that we have come across these in others and discover them in ourselves.

Our soil is a combination of rocky soil, thorn soil, kind of good soil and good soil.

So therefore, what is our relationship with our Lord?

Are we really serving him with our whole heart?

To be good soil is living in peace with one another, striving for equality and promoting God's love within our community, to love one another unconditionally, and to be receptive to the word of God. To do the right thing at all times without thinking about personal gain.

What do we stand for within our community that will root out thorns of ugliness, greediness, and worries of earthly things, abuse of the weak, discrimination, and oppression?

When we give account of our lives to God when the kingdom comes, are we going to be able to say: Lord, I have been good soil and have brought others to your kingdom?

A friend of mine sent me an article about a Kenyan runner named Abel Mutal. Mutal was just a few feet from the finish line, but he became confused and stopped thinking he had completed the race.

A Spanish runner, Ivan Fernandez, was right behind him and realized what was happening. He began shouting at Mutal to continue running, but Mutal could not understand Spanish. Realizing what was taking place, Fernandez pushed Mutal to victory.

A journalist asked Ivan why he did what he did. Ivan replied, "My dream is that someday we can have a kind of community life where we push and help each other win."

The journalist asked again, "But why did you let Mutal win?" Ivan replied, "I did not let him win. He was going to win. The race was his." The journalist again insisted, "But you could have won." Ivan replied, "But what would be the merit of my victory? What would be the honor in that medal? What would my mother think of me?"

Ivan Fernandez will be remembered forever for his kindness, sportsmanship and love for a fellow competitor. His heart is filled with good soil.

Let us make our own hearts full of good soil. Let us be happy for others and push them to succeed by bringing them to the kingdom of God. Let us pass these values from generation to generation.

Brothers and sisters let us look within our hearts. Have we brought happiness to anyone lately? Through our behaviors, have we brought someone to Christ?

It is not too late to be the good soil within our community. It is not too late to begin pushing others to succeed. It is not too late to bring others to the kingdom of God.

Let us pray

Lord, help us identify those areas of our lives that do not bring glory to you, and grant us the grace to make a change. In Jesus Christ's name we pray. Amen.