

From Fr. David:



What is it with all these parables in these weeks of the gospel?

The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied,

"The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables:

Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand." (Matthew 13:10-17)

Jesus' parables are seemingly simple and memorable stories, often with imagery, and all convey messages. Scholars have commented that although these parables seem simple, the messages they convey are deep, and central to the teachings of Jesus. Christian authors view them not as mere stories which serve the purpose of illustration, but as internal analogies in which nature becomes a witness for the spiritual world.

Many of Jesus' parables refer to simple everyday things, such as a woman baking bread (parable of the Leaven), a man knocking on his neighbor's door at night (parable of the Friend at Night), or the aftermath of a roadside mugging (parable of the Good Samaritan); yet they deal with major religious themes, such as the growth of the Kingdom of God, the importance of prayer, and the meaning of love. (much like the last several weeks regarding seeds, planting and reaping)

In Western civilization, these stories formed the prototype for the term *parable* and in the modern age, even among those who know little of the Bible, the parables of Jesus remain some of the best known stories in the world. For those who have ears, listen.....

Blessings... Fr. David

Morning Prayer and Eucharist

This Sunday, July 30th is the 5th Sunday of the month, and a time when we will celebrate both Morning Prayer and Eucharist. We do this for several reasons; one specifically to experience the tradition of our Episcopal heritage and two, to give some practice to our Lay-Officers who can lead a service of Morning Prayer in the absence of a priest. So, if (and when) your rector falls sick or otherwise incapacitated early on a Sunday morning and there is no other priest to call in time, there will still be a beautiful service to celebrate together in the tradition of Morning Prayer. In previous years, some time ago, Morning Prayer was a staple worship service and Eucharist was celebrated, maybe, once a month. Now that the Eucharistic service has become the primary service in most Anglican-Episcopal traditions, Morning Prayer is done much less often. So, this being said, I encourage you to relish and embrace our Morning Prayer tradition. The 5th Sundays make up only 4-5 Sundays during the year, so enjoy a change of pace...