



THINK ON THESE THINGS.....

Reading: Matthew 13:10 -17

10 The disciples came to him and asked, “Why do you speak to the people in parables?”
11 He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables: “Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

Reflection:

We are at that time of the year in the lectionary cycle where some of the parables of our Lord come into sharp focus. The reality is that some of his hearers were finding some of the stories more than a little tricky to understand. “So Lord, why do you use this method to communicate your truth?” Jesus’ answer to their question is both surprising and disturbing.

Not everyone is open to understand the “secrets” of God’s Reign. Some will search for wisdom, and they will finally gain the insight they need to grasp it. But others will find it all too challenging, or too much work, and will not bother. These people will remain unable to see or hear or understand what God’s Reign is about.

The principles of the way of our Lord are not easy to grasp because they go against everything we are taught in human society, but they are so immensely precious that even the prophets longed to see what Jesus revealed.

This short text from Matthew comes between the telling of the parable of the Sower and the explanation which Jesus gave to his disciples. The parables Jesus used seemed so simple on the surface, but they always had a twist that surprised and disturbed his hearers. Even his explanations of the parables are a little puzzling and require careful study to reveal their meaning.

But, at the heart of Jesus’ teaching is one simple invitation - to have the courage and commitment to keep searching until the truth finds us. It is only when we give up, or think we have “arrived” that we miss receiving God’s message.

So, let’s keep searching and questioning. Look out for God’s answers – they will often come at the most unexpected times and in the most surprising ways!

Breath-Prayer for Today: Dear Lord, keep my searching for your truths as I open my heart and mind to your word and your world.

