Today's Gospel is the familiar “sowing of the seed”. This reading today is written in three segments. First, Jesus describes what the sower did, and what happened to the seed depending on where it landed. Secondly He explained to the disciples the purpose of speaking in parables. And finally, Jesus interprets this story for His followers.

Jesus tells us stories, not so that we can interpret them and place our own meaning on them, but so we can be transformed by His words and actions.

Other parables, too such as the “camel passing through the eye of a needle” and “the mustard seed”, will be heard and understood only by our faith and acceptance of the Word of God.

He tells these stories not only so that we can ask about them, but so that the stories can ask questions of us. For example, using today’s parable you should ask yourself: What kind of sower am I? What kind of a soil am I?

This might have happened to you too, but as I read about the different areas where the seeds fell, I could place a type of person to each situation.

I know there are people who let everything go in one ear and out the other. Never learning or making any personal improvements. This person represents the seed on that hard path where nothing can take root and grow.

The rocky soil may be someone you know or work with that takes something on very enthusiastically, and then gets sidetracked by other wants, needs, or personal issues. There just isn’t enough nurturing to come into full bloom.

And everybody knows the type of person that starts projects but then continually makes excuses for not completely following thru to the end. The thorns of daily life just choke out any fruitfulness that could have grown. God has always allowed the weeds to grow amongst the wheat, which is the Gospel message for next Sunday.

And then finally, there are the seeds in the good soil that grow strong roots. These are people that not only flourish in themselves but bloom and produce their fruit for others.

Just as Jesus explained to His disciples the use of parables, the purpose is there for us also. He could have told them and us, to believe in Him and practice our faith as if we are a plant in rich soil, and just left it at that.
Doesn’t it help us to hear about the other options of life? Don’t we now have a clear picture of where to plant our seeds of Faith, Hope and Love?

We should interpret Jesus’ stories as our catalyst to follow His example. Each story and parable should be a cause for looking deep into our soul. Each one should make us want to ask ourselves: “What personal reflections are His stories and parables asking of me?”

For all of us on our daily journey to put into practice our Lord’s teachings, it really doesn’t matter whether we do something great in the eyes of the world. What matters is whether our actions are performed in the name of God, with salvation as our goal.

Donating some clothing or canned food to WARM or St. Vincent DePaul Society, is the same as writing a check for a thousand dollars.

Giving a couple of hours of your time to volunteer at a Special Olympics event is just as important as endowing a hospital wing.

It’s human nature for us to feel that we need to do something really big in order to be considered worthwhile. But the thing is we don’t get that message from our Lord.

In His life, passion and death, Jesus taught us how to live in the rich soil of God’s grace. His love and forgiveness was the strong and constant example of our seed taking root and maturing in a foundation made of faith.

Let’s take Christ’s message and starting today, grow our faith in the richness of His love and make our lives bloom in the fulfillment of our journey to salvation.