



74th Year

October 11, 2026

Pamphlet #41 (3828)

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL (Luke 8:5-15)

The dissemination of the Word of God

The Lord said this parable: "A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell along the path, and was trodden under foot, and the birds of the air devoured it. And some fell on the rock; and as it grew up, it withered away, because it had no moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns grew with it and choked it. And some fell into good soil and grew, and yielded a hundredfold." And when his disciples asked him what this parable meant, he said, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but for others they are in parables, so that seeing they may not see, and hearing they may not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, that they may not believe and be saved. And the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear the word, receive it with joy; but these have no root, they believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. And as for what fell among the thorns, they are those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by the cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not mature. And as for that in the good soil, they are those who, hearing the word, hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bring forth fruit with patience." As he said these things, he cried out "He who has ears to hear, let him hear."

THE HEAVENLY HUSBANDMAN

The Parable of the Sower is bound to the Person of Jesus Christ, for He is the good husbandman; the seed is the Word of

God, and the earth, the field upon which the seed falls, is the heart of man. Saint John Chrysostom very aptly says that the heavenly Husbandman “went out to sow.” And from where did He go out, he wonders – He who is present in every place, He who fills all things with His presence? And how did He go out? Not locally, but through His condescension toward us. That is, He became nearer to us through His Incarnation. And did He go out, perhaps, to destroy the earth filled with thorns? Not at all. He went out to cultivate it, to care for it, and to sow the word of piety, of godliness. This is the work of Christ.

The synergy of man

Yet the heart of man is darkened by sin. It sinks into spiritual gloom and encloses itself within itself, that is, it becomes dominated by egotism. This spiritual condition of the human soul, and the various stages that characterize it, are presented by the Lord in this parable. He refers first to those who heard the Word of God, but because of their spiritual hardness and insensibility, they resemble a path trampled a thousand times; therefore, the seeds that fell there do not prosper. Thus, the devil takes from the hearts of these people the Word of God, so that they may not believe and be saved.

He then refers to the seeds that fell upon rocky ground, where, because of the soil’s unsuitability, they could not take root. In similar fashion, certain people receive the divine word with joy, yet without allowing it to develop the wondrous powers of faith and life that it possesses. Consequently, when sorrows and temptations inevitably come upon the field of the soul, these people withdraw from God, since these trials concern faith itself, life itself, conscience itself – trials which they are unable to endure, because there is no spiritual foundation nor genuine trust in the love of Christ and in His word.

Finally, we have the case of the seeds that fell among the thorns. Here are implied those who heard the word, but the destructive cares of life, the excessive confidence in human

strength, the anxious pursuit of accumulating material goods, and the constant preoccupation with the affairs of this world choked their good intention to cultivate the divine word in the soil of their soul. Thus, they lost the opportunity to receive the Lord into their being, to know Him, and to be united with Him.

The fruitful hearts

Christ also speaks of those whose heart resembles the good, fertile soil that receives the divine seed. These preserve it within themselves and, with patience, bear the fruit of the Spirit, namely love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control (Galatians 5:22–23). This wondrous fruitfulness presupposes the struggle for the transformation of the human heart; egotism and individualism must be transfigured into selfless, genuine love in Christ, which is offered to one's fellow man as gentleness, forgiveness, justice, uprightness. What is required is the earnestness and effort of the believer to subject his will to the will of God, so that he may sense the presence of the Lord in his life, true freedom, and proper communication and relationship with his neighbor. For all these things, however, patience is needed, prayer, conscious ecclesial life, and deep trust in the love of God.

Archimandrite N. K.

October 11, 2026: 4TH SUNDAY OF LUKE

Of the God bearing Fathers of
the Seventh Ecumenical Council in Nicaea (787);
Philip the Apostle, one of the Seven; Theophanes the Confessor, called
the Graptós, Bishop of Nicaea († 850).

2nd Tone – Eothinon: 8 – Epistle: Titus 3:8-15
– Gospel: Luke 8:5-15

NEXT SUNDAY: October 18, Luke the Evangelist
Epistle: Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18 – Gospel: Luke 10:16-21

MISSIONARY SEMINAR OF THE OFFICE OF EXTERNAL MISSION

The Missionary Seminar resumes its operation, and its annual program of lectures seeks, as far as possible, to address the theological and contemporary spiritual, catechetical, and related needs and challenges of our time in the vineyard of Mission.

The **PURPOSE** of the Seminar is to form a “reservoir” of well-trained people who desire to serve in the vital field of Mission.

During the **academic year 2026–2027**, fifteen (15) two-hour online meetings will be held, every two weeks, always on Saturday evening at 6:00 pm.

The Seminar’s courses will begin on **Saturday, 17 October 2026. A CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE** is granted.

Requirements: Students are accepted upon submitting: (a) Proof of studies (at least a high school diploma), and (b) two recent photographs.

For more information, you may contact:

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