19th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today’s Gospel reading tells us a very famous parable of the sower who went out to sow his seed. We all understand that the sower is a preacher of the Word of God, a missionary who is spreading the good news of the Christian faith. The sower should also be understood as our Lord Jesus Christ Himself. He came to sow the seed of His teaching and His salutary faith. The parable is telling us about different kinds of soil where the seed falls. Those kinds of soil are different kinds of people’s souls receiving the preaching of the Word of God.”

Those are the people who receive the word, who receive it truly, in their heart, but there are so many things that matter — tomorrow will do, or, if we only could reduce the message to something livable, simple, not to the absolutness of it!

Now, we can apply it to ourselves: how many of us listen to the words of the Gospel, listen to the words of preaching, read books that are full of interest and depth, and they store it in their memory, they enjoy it — but that is the end; they can quote it — but that is all.

And there are so many of us who have received the message with enthusiasm, with passion, knowing that this message is an a answer to all there is in us of longing, of hunger, of greatness, indeed; but then, life is so complex, there is so much to do! And in all this doing, in all this complexity the words is left aside — for another time, for another day, when I will be old enough not to have any concerns: then I can turn back to this glorious moment when life unfolded itself in all its splendour — I keep it in my memory!..

What about us, receiving the message and bearing fruit?

But how does this message reach us? I remember one priest saying to me, ‘I read the Gospel daily, and I respond to it very seldom. But I read it daily because I never know whether today, or tomorrow, or on another day I will be the barren roadside, or the weeds by the way, or, of a sudden, whether this word will not fall on a small patch in me which is capable of receiving it and bearing fruit’.

Isn’t that simple, isn’t that encouraging? We all are the three things described in the parable; but if we give a chance to God Who speaks, to God, Who passes through our life, to God Who knocks at our heart — from time to time we will receive the message with joy and let go of it; but from time to time it will reach a depth in our heart, a core of our life and be the answer that will change it.

Let us therefore listen, listen to the words of the Gospel day in and day out; listen to the voice of our conscience, listen to what the deepest self says to us about life, about truth, about reality; and from time to time we will have been the good ground that can bear fruit.

This parable, so simple, so clear, if we only apply it, can be a beginning of a new life. Amen.