

LOCKDOWN DAY 110 – 14 JULY 2020

Molweni beloved family and friends of False Bay Diocese,

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9

Hymn: *We plough the fields and scatter the good seed*

Jesus is saying to us 'Be still and know that I am God'. He looks lovingly at you and your loved ones wherever they may be, saying I am here for you, to comfort you, to wipe away your tears. I am with you.

On behalf of all of us, immense gratitude to our clergy for liturgy material and meditations that they distribute on Sundays and throughout the week. We are also distributing Sunday School material to Parishes on Sundays. Thank you. A huge vote of gratitude to our Archdeacons for all that they are doing to help disseminate information to you. Grace and peace to all concerned.

The message of the gospel reading is clear. God has sent God's word into the universe and into every single soul. It is the seed that grows, that matures, that develops and this means that through the Grace of God given to us freely, we can grow and mature into the people that God wants us to be, has planned for us to be in God's providence. It demands of us that we have the courage to listen to the word of God. We are also encouraged to be patient. Just as the seed does not grow immediately, we cannot become saints overnight. We need to overcome the weeds in our own lives and in the world. We need to overcome the thorns. With God's help, we need to remove the stony ground from our hearts so that our hearts can become hearts of flesh where the Incarnate Word can make his dwelling again.

Through the Grace of God, we are to reject whatever is contrary to the will of Christ. We are all suffering the affects of Covid-19. For some the situation has become unbearable and intolerable as added to Covid-19, some areas are suffering from flooding and storm damage. The universe is groaning and growing. It is not stagnant. For Christians, creation is precious. There is nothing permanent. Everything is impermanent. Many of us live our lives **for** the moment and not **in** the moment. We are creatures dependant on God our creator. We cannot cause our own existence. We are not earthbound. We are not in control of our own destiny. Like creation, we are unfinished, we are limited, we need completion, we are inescapably vulnerable, we need rest. Our minds are limited. The human heart, the human longing is for something greater than this existence. Such is the pain of this world. The good news is that the suffering of this time, is nothing compared with the glory revealed in us. We, like the earth, are subject to the laws of rise and decay. We are fundamentally good and still growing. Because we are growing, we still lack. Do we accept our creaturehood, unfinishedness, incompleteness? Humans utter yes or no to the risk that God dramatically takes to give us free choice. Our choices result either in the glories of love or the catastrophes of moral evil.

Listen, a **sower** went out to sow and as he sowed:

Some seed fell on the path ... When we are not rooted in our incompleteness, lacking those essential roots of dependency on God, our freedom is pecked at by passing birds.

Other seeds fell on rocky ground ... Because of our choices, our freedom dries and withers.

Other seeds fell among thorns ... Our choices choke us in fear and worldly anxiety.

Other seeds fell on good soil ... Our choices take it all in. We embrace the limits of this life. We cherish the gift of dependency as incomplete creatures on God our Creator. We cherish the gift of dependency and grow in it. We bow down to the gift of being good but not God.

All of us need to learn to grow in dependency on God our Creator. God sends us the rain of God's word to water, to nourish the glory of our dependency that is built into our human nature. Let us rediscover the beauty of dependency on God, in our incompleteness. We cherish the gift of dependency and the reality that completeness is beyond creaturehood. The challenge is to accept and see our dependency on God as something **liberating** not **limiting**. We are on earth to know God, to love God, to serve God. We are here to grow in our understanding of who we are as people, through the Grace of God. We need to rediscover the

beauty of dependency, the beauty of incompleteness. Only then can we transcend the present age. The completeness we are searching for cannot be found in anything created because all creation is limited. What we are searching for can only be found in God. Listen anyone who has ears.

Today, please **reach out** to any farmer who you may know, those working on the land, anyone working in food production and others who ensure that food is brought to our shops and supermarkets.

Prayers:

We come now before God as his created children asking him to listen to our needs and petitions:

We pray for a greater awareness of our creaturehood and by accepting our own dependency on God, we will be liberated from the prison of the modern age.

We pray for all searching for meaning and purpose in life, that they will open their hearts to the reality of God and transcend the limits of the modern way of thinking.

We pray for the sick. We remember those in hospital and all those who find life a burden during this time of pandemic in the world.

We pray for our beloved dead, we pray for the repose of the soul of Zindzi Mandela, Bishop Desire of Goma Diocese in the Congo and all our loved ones who have departed this life. We pray that they will be received into the happiness of eternity.

Lord hear us ... Lord graciously hear us.

I am, Because we Are, Because God is ... Opening hearts to heal God's world. *Be still and know that I am God.*