**Wasting the Love of God**

*Fr Louis Fowóyò̩*

God meant that every human heart yields a fruitful harvest. Since He does not create anything bad, He can not be held responsible for our not responding positively to Him. We are a promising generation with great potentials.

* “Here rests a promising generation who never realized its potential because they busied themselves with many good things at the expense of their one really and most important good thing.”
* The choices we make sometimes makes it impossible for us to realize our potentials. What we believe about ourselves, can also be a factor. The attitude that procrastinate will never do half of what it should do in life.
* Our baptism has prepared us to be that soil that should produce. We may not produce in 100s but we should not stop struggling to produce no matter how small.
* We are called to live a life that helps the grace of God to grow.
* We cannot waste the love of God, because if it doesn’t grow in us, it will grow in others. However, we are called to enhance and nurture the way it grows in us as individual.

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11; God gives gracefully. It is left for us to receive and work with the grace of God.

* “Just as from the heavens the rain and snow come down and do not return there till they have watered the earth…. So, shall My word be that goes forth from my mouth, my word shall not return to me void, but shall do my will, achieving the end for which I sent it.”
* In this passage, we are able to know that life is what God gives through nature. The moisture from above causes the earth to prosper. Without what is given by God, there will be no life at all.
* God’s word gives life and it is so powerful that it must accomplish what it is meant for. It does not return without doing what it was created to do. That is why, if it is stiffen in one place, it gives abundantly to where it is allowed to grow.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23; is the story of the sower and the seeds. All the seed came from the same source, but the environment they found themselves made a difference in the way they respond to the grace given by God for their growth.

* “And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear."
* The intention of the sower is that all should yield maximum dividend. However, it is not easy for all to because of the different conditions, some found themselves in unfavorable conditions and don’t have the will to come out of it, while others create these conditions and because of the material benefit they derive, will not want to come out of it.
* Pope Francis has this to illustrate to us that there is no excuse if we do not cooperate with the grace of God:
	+ “My Mom’s uncle, a priest, specified that anyone who attended his funeral would receive $1,000. Nobody knew this until after the funeral and much fight and resentment in the family ensued once it became known. “I would have come if I knew…” and “I should get the $1,000 even though I did not attend because I was sick…” etc.
* As children of God, our excuses are not enough reasons to produce if we do not cooperate with the grace of God.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23; St Paul is encouraging us that we should do our best to await with eager expectation the gift of God. We should not give excuses, because they will not supply for our loss.

* “We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for the adoption, the redemption of our bodies.”
* Every seed is capable of yielding provided the soil can cooperate with the grace of God. Since the soil is human being, then I would like to say that no soil is destined to be unproductive forever. Also, what seems to be a good soil, if not careful can fall away except for the grace of God.

In this parable, Jesus included in the good soil the least likely ones as Tax Collectors and women of easy virtues who repent of their bad ways of life and follow Jesus (Matthew 21:28-32).

* Let us try and live lives that will make our soil to produce. The sower is hopeful that that will happen and that is why he invested generously and extravagantly in the least promising places.
* God will never give up on us. He will always give the opportunity to grow and produce.