

Chapter 5:

We Learn from the Bible



Introduction

Reading books is an important way we learn about the world. Some books teach us about science. Some books help us learn about the world and all the creatures that live in it. Some books teach us about how other people live and think.

There is one book, though, that teaches us about God and his plan for us. That book is the Bible. It is the most important book you will ever read or listen to. With the Church guiding us, the Bible helps us understand God's great love for his people.

Scripture Story: Jesus Wants Us to Hear and Accept His Word

Jesus taught people using stories, or **parables**. One of the parables Jesus told was about a man scattering seeds on the ground to plant a field of grain. When Jesus' followers did not understand the story, Jesus explained it to them in these words:

The sower sows the word. These are the ones on the path where the word is sown. As soon as they hear, Satan comes at once and takes

away the word sown in them. And these are the ones sown on rocky ground who, when they hear the word, receive it at once with joy. But they have no root; they last only for a time. Then when tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. Those sown among thorns are another sort. They are the people who hear the word, but worldly anxiety, the lure of riches, and the craving for other things intrude and choke the word, and it bears no fruit. But those sown on rich soil are the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit thirty and sixty and a hundredfold. (Mark 4:14-20, NABRE)

This is not a story about growing plants! The seeds stand for God's Word. The different kinds of soil stand for how people react to God's Word. Jesus is saying that some people are not open to hearing God's Word. Other people hear God's Word but do not believe it or follow it. And some people hear God's Word and act on it. Which kind of person does Jesus want us to be?

Jesus wants us to be like the good soil. He wants us to hear God's Word, accept it, and act on it. Jesus is God's Word come to us from Heaven.

Jesus was sent by God the Father to save us from our sins. And, because the Bible teaches us about Jesus, the Bible is also called the Word of God. The Parable of the Sower teaches us to listen to Jesus Christ and believe in him and the things he teaches.

The Bible Is the Word of God

God gave the Bible to the Church to teach us about Jesus. The Bible has more than one name. It is also called the Word of God, and it is also called the Sacred Scripture.

The Bible is divided into two main sections: the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament has stories about the Jewish people. These stories happened before Jesus was born into the world. The stories in the Old Testament helped prepare people for the coming of Jesus.

The books in the New Testament tell us about Jesus and his first followers. The stories about Jesus are mainly found in four books called the Gospels. There are four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The Gospels are the most important books of the Bible.

The New Testament also has stories and letters about Jesus' first followers. These stories and letters tell us how the Church began and how it spread across the world.

God's Treasure of the Eucharist

Do you remember the four main parts of the Mass? The second part is called the Liturgy of the Word. During the Liturgy of the Word, we hear God's Word from the Bible. At Sunday Mass, we hear four different Bible readings:

- First Reading: This is usually from the Old Testament and reminds us of God's love for us.
- Responsorial Psalm: During this reading, a prayer from the Old Testament, called a psalm, is sung or read.

- Second Reading: This is a reading from one of the New Testament letters that was written to the early Church.
- Gospel Reading: This is a reading from one of the four Gospels in the New Testament.

These readings change every Sunday, and they help us learn about the life of Jesus. Throughout the Church year, we hear about Jesus' birth, his life of teaching and healing, his suffering, his Death, and his Resurrection. We hear how he ascended into Heaven and how he sent the Holy Spirit to us at Pentecost. We look forward in hope to his coming again.

After the readings, the priest or deacon gives a talk called a homily. The homily helps us understand God's Word and how to follow it. You will understand more as you grow and learn, so keep listening!

After the homily, all the people stand and pray together the beliefs that all Catholics hold. This is called the Profession of Faith. Then we end the Liturgy of the Word by praying for the needs of the Church and the world.

Things to Remember

- God's Word is another name for Jesus Christ. It is also another name for the Bible.
- The Bible is also called Sacred Scripture.
- The Bible is a guide for our lives. It help us understand how to be faithful to God as a follower of Jesus.
- Jesus doesn't just want us to just hear God's Word; he wants us to act on it.
- At every Mass, we hear readings from the Bible in the Liturgy of the Word.