

So, What's Your Point?

Have you ever explained something so carefully and at length, and yet the other person misses your point? This seems to be the situation in today's Gospel. The scene Jesus first described was a familiar one. The people listening to him might have sown seed in this manner themselves. So, what was the point?

First it is important to recall that a parable is a story with a double meaning. One meaning is literal, the other is metaphoric. The literal meaning of this parable is obvious. So, what's the point? It is in the second part of the passage that Jesus explains the metaphoric meaning. He tells his disciples that the seeds represent those who hear the word of the kingdom. Then the reality of life intervenes and each seed (the one who hears the word) must decide how to deal with that reality. One might think: Very interesting story. I know just what the seed is going through.

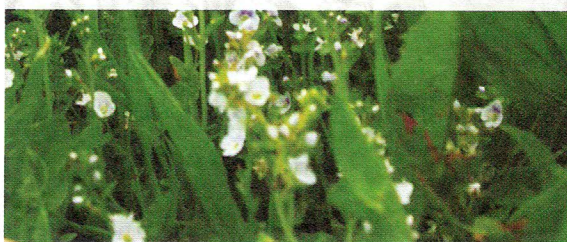
We are now ready to ask: What's the real point of the story? The metaphoric meaning of the parable should pose several questions for each of us: What yield do I produce? Do I appreciate what it means to be a disciple; or is that privilege far from my consciousness? Am I grounded in my faith, or am I religiously rootless? Do I live according to the standards of Jesus, or do the allure and riches of the world entrap me? That's the point of the story.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



[Jesus said,] "This is why I speak to them in parables, because 'they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand.'"

MATTHEW 13:13



FOR *Reflection*

- * How has the word of the kingdom taken root in your family?
- * What yield of goodness do you bring forth in your workplace?

