

## **The World, the Flesh, and the Devil**

Friends in Christ,

Today Our Lord gives us the parable of the sower.  
He says that some of the seed sown by the sower falls on the path, and the birds eat it.  
Some on rocky ground; it grows without roots, the sun makes it wither.  
Some falls among thorns, and is choked.  
And some falls on fertile ground and produces fruit for God.

When we hear Our Lord's parable, we see that it is very true to life.

Those who have received the Word, that is the Faith - this would represent all Catholics;

For some people, even though they were given the Catholic Faith, birds swoop down and eat the seed - take away their faith.

Jesus says, this is those who are carried away by the devil.

I know many who grew up with me, Catholic schools, they received the Faith - yet tempted by the devil into all kinds of things - greed, pride, drugs, or sheer laziness - they have fallen away.  
the devil has caught them.

We know others who, at least externally are practicing their faith - but then sins of the flesh catch them, even addict them. They are pulled away from Christ by pornography, fornication, same-sex actions, or other lusts - an enormous number of young people, shacking up unmarried.  
Their faith has been choked by thorns of the flesh.

St. Paul asked that the Lord would remove his thorn, his temptation, but God said, 'No, my grace is sufficient for you.

God gives the grace for us to resist temptation, but many allow the thorns and temptations of the flesh

to choke off their Faith and they are no longer seen at Holy Mass.

Finally, we also know people who are 'cultural Catholics.'  
They practice their faith as long as it is easy.

They are the seeds that germinate, but have no root.

When the heat is on, they can't take it.

When the world presses its own religion onto them -  
they go along with it.

Peer pressure is no just with teens, it's SO common with  
adults, who go along with whatever society teaches.

They wither and give up the faith.

St. Bernard says, 'the World rages, the Flesh is heavy,  
and the Devil lays his snares;

we may have sinned gravely, we may have been caught at  
times,

but as St. Bernard says, 'What sin is there so deadly  
that it cannot be pardoned by the death of Christ?'

May we be - or become - those seeds which bring forth  
much fruit.