



Reflection from Ben Babaran

The parable of the Sower, seeds and soil calls us to ponder on what happens to those who listen to the word of God. Jesus promises that the results are incalculable for those fertile recipients of the seed of His word. In Midtown, Kansas City, St. James is a beacon of hope because her parishioners are rich soil in whom Jesus' word grew and bore fruit!

In a neighborhood where thorns choke out the seeds and where rocky grounds are aplenty, St. James Catholic Church has remained an oasis for people who thirst and hunger, people needing welcome, compassion and respect. Meanwhile, Troost39 Thrift Store has been providing clothing to those in need along with St. James through its voucher program for six years now and started to partner with Kansas City G.I.F.T. to give African American artists opportunities, the Ogelsby Hotel Apartments recently opened its door to provide affordable housing to a number of clients. However, as Jesus' word grew and bore fruit in the area of Troost Ave. and 39th Street, it is not enough!

More and more families as well as single parents come to St. James seeking help from Between the Cracks Fund. The Ogelsby Hotel Apartments is the only one providing affordable housing along Troost corridor. The cries of the poor are not being heard.

It seems that for many of us, we have become used to the Word of God which we hear proclaimed to us every day. We have become cold-hearted and uncaring to the Word of God. Thus, we cannot hear Jesus in the cries of the homeless, mentally ill, and those displaced.

This Sunday's parable of Jesus tells us otherwise - to keep sowing and growing, to keep listening.

*Peace,
Ben*