

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

For Adults:

How might I be getting in the way of the Kingdom breaking through in the world?

Continue from page 1

For instance, if a village came under attack from outsiders, the entire village banded together as a new ingroup. Natives of the same village or quarter of a city who might be outgroup to each other at home become ingroup to each other when they find themselves in a remote location. That Jesus of Nazareth had a house in Capernaum ([Mk 2:1](#)), and that the first people from Capernaum whom He called to follow Him responded so readily indicates the extent of Jesus' ingroup network at that place ([Mt 4:18-22](#) and parallels).

All this discussion about ingroups and insider language is very jarring to modern believers who tend to hold Luke's idyllic view of the early followers of Jesus as living in loving harmony ([Acts 2:42](#)) and being constantly under attack by enemies. Hostility permeated this culture and colored everyone's behavior.

The difference between Americans and their Mediterranean ancestors in the faith is that Americans generally seek to avoid face-to-face confrontation. Hostility and competition take place behind the scenes, out of sight.

In the final verses ([Mt 13:18-23](#)) of this reading, Matthew interprets Jesus' parable by identifying the seed as "the word of the kingdom" and exhorting people to hear, understand, and act upon the word. The challenge is quite familiar to American believers. It's not enough to "talk the talk," one must also "walk the walk." John J. Pilch

Twilight By The Lake

Exhale, relax and mingle on the Cathedral Plaza while enjoying live music, a beautiful lake view and complimentary appetizers. This FREE event takes place on third Thursdays: August 21th, September 18 and October 16th, 5:00 - 7:30 PM. This is open to the community and everyone is welcome! Docent-led tours of the Cathedral will be available during the event. Stay tuned for the musical group that will kick-off the Twilight by the Lake series in August. More details to follow.

Date to Remember

Sunday, July 27th, Jim Gilman's Farewell Party



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Saint Augustine Catholic Church

400 Alcatraz Avenue, Oakland, California

www.staugustineoakland.com

Office phone number (510) 653-8631

Looking More Closely at The Word

Parables paint culture-based scenarios. Yet every one in the ancient world knew that the parable teller intended the scenario to refer to something more or something other than was described.

The Sower

In today's parable, the first question is, who is the sower? In the ancient world, sowing preceded plowing. Still, the manner of sowing described in this parable is sloppy and wasteful. If the sower is a landowner, the peasant audience would despise his waste of precious seed.

If the sower is a tenant farmer or a day laborer, the peasants would sympathize with his careful sowing which ends up wasting seed anyway because conditions are so difficult.

The impossibly extravagant harvest gives a clue to the identity of the sower. On average, one might expect a four- or five-fold return on sowing. Thirty-, sixty-, and a hundredfold boggle the imagination.

If a wasteful landowner realized such a profit, Jesus' parable is hardly good news to the peasants who made up 95 percent of His audience.

But if the sower were a peasant, then the good news is that the crop will satisfy the landowner, provide seed for next year's sowing, pay all taxes, and still leave enough for the peasant to feed the family.

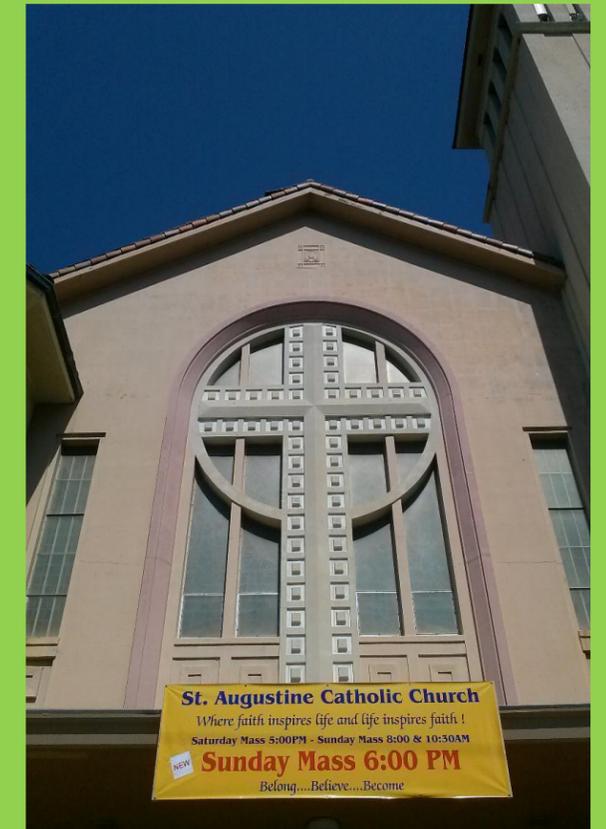
Moreover, since it is clearly God and not human effort that produces this humongous harvest, the "something other" or "something more" that the parable intends is now very clear. The scenario describes sowing and farming, but it really points to a loving and provident God who looks after needy peasants.

Ingroups and Confrontation

The parable reveals yet another dimension of peasant life in the first century. Jesus tells His disciples that parables are "ingroup" or "insider" language (see [Mt 13:10-16](#)).

Normally, one's ingroup consisted of one's household (including servants and slaves), extended family, and friends. All others, even in the same village, were the outgroup. Still, the shape of both groups was rather fluid and changed often.

Continued on page 4



Weekly Worship Schedule

Saturday Vigil
5:00 p.m.

Sunday Eucharist
8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.

Weekday Eucharist
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
8:30 a.m.

Communion Service
Wednesday 8:30 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday 4 p.m.

Mission Statement

We are called by Christ to love Him, to follow Him and to bring Him to the world.

Dates to Remember

Saturday, July 26th Rawn Harbor's Farewell Party

Sunday, August 24th St. Augustine's Feast Day

Upcoming Baptism Class and Baptisms

St. Augustine's next Baptism class is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22 from 7 PM - 9 PM. Parents and God-parents who are in need of a class can avail themselves of this opportunity. The Baptisms are scheduled for the week of August 2nd and 3rd. Please contact Fr. William Rosario at (510) 653-8631 to make an appointment.

Practica in July

Please join us in welcoming our 2 Music Director finalists; one who will be leading the choir at the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday, July 6th, and the other on Sunday, July 13th.

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:

Gail Smith, Mildred Burns, Mary Flynn, Madeleine Shannon, Jerome Jacob, Matilda Maes, Mary Pavao, Lakey Zerihun, Gloria Bautista, Ruth Johnson, Patty Wiesner, Claudia Johnson, Matthew Laubach, Mary Lou Ihrig, Jannet Johnson, Frances Landeza, Carmon Woodyard, Hortense Atkins, and Roseanne Johnson

And those who have died in past year:

Albert Donabedian, Jerome Mitchell, Paul Sagan, Eugene Alan Merlin, Cristóbal Kauffman, Michelle Arnsdorf-Fie Vivian Breen Manka, Fr. Tom Edwards, Rose Camberos, Adella Rose, James Jacob, and Lee Weathersby III

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, July 12th, 2014, 5:00 p.m.

Sunday July 13th, 2014, 8:00 a.m.

Sunday, July 13th, 2014, 10:30 a.m.

Sharyn Entrop (-)

Sunday, July 13th, 2014, 6:00 p.m.

Parishioners and Benefactors

Stewardship – Weekly Offering

July 6th, 2014: \$4,938 (includes EFT)

St. Vincent de Paul Stewardship: \$93.59

St. Vincent de Paul Society, Parish Conference:

Accepts Donations of Non-perishable Food, Bottled Water. Leave donations in the SVdP basket in vestibule.

Thank you.

GOOD NEWS!!

The St. Vincent de Paul van will be here on Saturday, July 19, from 9:30 AM until 6 PM, and on Sunday, July 20, from 9 AM to 2 PM to collect your donations of clean and useable items. Also e-waste will be accepted. Details in the hand-out, along with bags, on the vestibule table.

St. Augustine Parish Office

400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609

Phone: (510) 653-8631 ext 110

www.staugustineoakland.com

saintaugustinechurch@comcast.net

Emergency Cell number (510) 557-8384

Fr. William Rosario

Parochial Administrator, ext # 100

wmrosario@gmail.com

Rebecca Pelle, Liturgy ext 102

rebeccah.pelle@gmail.com

James Gilman, Director, Music Ministries

jhgilman@sbcglobal.net

Jen Owens, RCIA and Inquiry ext # 103

jen.owens9@gmail.com

Linda Prara-Jenkins, Office Manager ext # 101

staugustinefrontdesk@gmail.com

Douglas Castro/Maintenance

Please join members of the Social Justice Ministry

to pray "Rosary for Peace" on the 1st Sundays of the month. Rosary for Peace begins at 9:15 AM, on following days in 2014: August 3, September 7, October 5, November 2, and December 7.

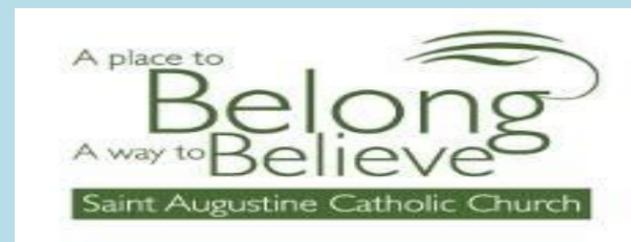
Backpacks and School Supplies needed at SVdP

St. Vincent de Paul Alameda County is planning to distribute **backpacks and school supplies to 200 children** at our Back to School Open House on Saturday, August 23th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All backpacks and school supplies are needed by Wednesday, August 6th at the Community Center, 2272 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland.

If you would like to donate financially, contribute supplies or volunteer at the event, please call 510.877.9254 or email mdiegel@svdp-alameda.org for more information and a list of the supplies needed by grade level.

Thank you for helping us insure that our children have the basic supplies to be successful.



We want to understand it, examine it, and analyze it. But God enjoins us to enter it. God calls us to turn our backs on the kingdoms of this world and embrace an upside-down world. Underlying all Jesus' teaching about the kingdom is a call to respond. He invites us not to study but to join; not to dissect but to enter. What will we do with it? How will we respond?

Donald B. Kraybill
The Upside-Down Kingdom

Learn More on the Website:**Video Trailer**

View a two minute video introducing this series and looking to the four weeks ahead.

On Being Wrong

"Wrongologist" Kathryn Schulz argues that we need to admit and embrace our human tendency to be wrong. See how her insights and tools from our own faith can help us get beyond ourselves to live into the Kingdom.

Songs From the Kingdom

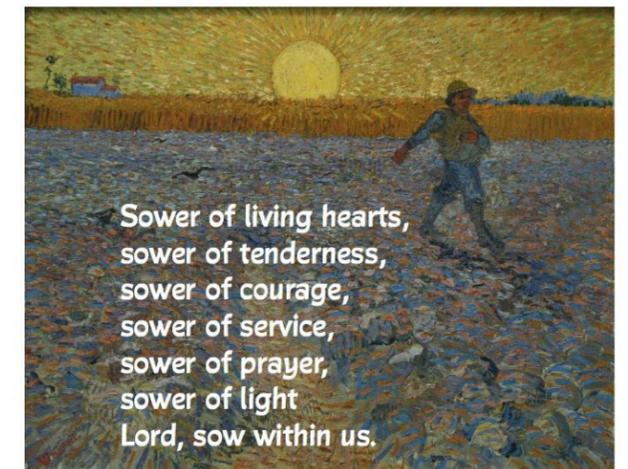
Each week, listen to some music from different genres that bring the vision of Kingdom to life.

Visit: <http://gospel.link/shouldbe1>

Week 1: Me First

When we think about how the world should be, many of us start focusing on what other people need to fix. It seems like it's the other people who always need the fixing.

But Jesus always seems to be reminding us to start with ourselves. As Christians, we should continually be experiencing conversion: letting God's love break open our hearts and turning our lives completely around to seek the Kingdom. How can we break through our own resistance to the Good News and let Christ rule in our own lives?



**Sower of gifts,
sower of forgiveness,
sower of faith,
sower of joy
sower of life,
sower of the Beatitudes.
Lord, sow in the hearts of all people!**

**Even if we are hard as stones,
be patient with us!
Your Good News
will manage to slip
between the tight cracks
in our rock and will
grow into giant sheaves
of Good News!**

Charles Singer and Albert Hari
Experience Jesus Today