

If Jesus was preaching today

If Jesus was walking amid some southern countries today he would find it a challenge to use some of his usual farming and fishing images in his teaching. Let us try to understand his dilemma.

A farmer went out to sow seeds that he had to buy on credit from a multinational due to a trade agreement his government had made. He sowed his genetically modified, high yielding seeds. Some fell to the edge but there were no birds to eat them as they had been poisoned by artificial pesticides. Some fell amid the rocks and so be it he could afford to lose a few. Some fell amid the thorns but the farmer used modified weed killer from the multinational to kill them (The multinational's seeds are resistant this strain of killer) thus leaving the seeds intact. Some seeds fell on rich soil made so by artificial fertilisers and grew.



When the harvest arrived the farmer did not have to separate the weeds from the wheat as there were no weeds. While there was a bumper harvest this year the wheat does not produce good high yielding seeds. The farmer paid his debt but had to buy more seeds from the multinational the next year. The multinational yielded a rich harvest.

To add to Jesus' teaching difficulties, the rivers are polluted from the runoff from these fields and so when he tells the fisher men to cast out their nets after a hard nights work they haul them in empty again. Their enthusiasm for following the Lord is well diminished, along with their desire to love their neighbour who is the local farmer.

Jesus would have to find a different response to the question posed to him regarding the payment of taxes, not only would there be no fish to tell Peter to take the four drachma from (Matt 22: 15-22) but who really owns the money in the country, certainly not the local government but the international money agencies.

He could no longer talk about the Pharisees lauding it over other people, he would have to direct his comment towards the multinational corporations, the IMF and the World Bank.

How would he repackage the Good News to the people on the margins in these countries today? Remember, you are Christ's body today alive in our world, proclaiming his message. What would you say and do to have your message heard and understood?