

LARMEY PROVIENCE [SIVAGANGAI]

JUNIORS' CIRCULAR

DECEMBER 2019

STORY/ INCIDENT TO READ

There was a man who was very keen on agriculture wanted to help some poor farmers by teaching them how to grow high-yield crops by which raising their standards of living.

He settled in a remote village after undergoing lots of hardships and pain. He secured a little plot of land there to undertake various types of crops and methods of cultivation. He found out that the most favourable yield in those fields were the cotton crops.

One day he called the oldest and most respected farmers of the village and asked them; "Have you ever thought of growing cotton in your soil? See my garden. Cotton seems to grow very well here".

The farmers raised their shoulders and in doubt they replied: "Cotton? But, we never grew cotton in our fields? No! We never did it. No, we shall never succeed!"

Patiently, the agriculturist kept telling them: "Do you not think that if we work very hard, plough the fields properly, use good manure and water the soil generously, shall we not be able to get rich cotton crops here?"

Raising their shoulders, the farmers replied: "Well, if someone works hard, ploughs the soil properly, waters the fields regularly and uses good seed, God knows, he might get rich cotton crops here. But, who will do all this for us?"

POINTS TO REFLECT

- ❖ Many of us want to reap rich crops without work.
- ❖ To have rich crops, we have to plough the ground, water the soil and work hard.
- ❖ Many of us keep complaining about how badly things go, yet we are not able to make serious efforts to remedy the situation.
- ❖ We have to work hard in faith and hope.
- ❖ To help others we have to work hard, sow the seed, we have to give good example to them with the hope that sooner or later, God will give the increase.
- ❖ If today, we can enjoy so many comforts and facilities it is because so many people – generation after generation – have been working hard before us. We reap the fruits of their labours.
- ❖ In turn, and out of gratefulness, we have to work hard to make our world a better place for those still to come after us. Let them enjoy the fruits of our labours.
- ❖ Not because a thing has never been done before, it should not be tried today. It is by trying over and over again that things improve.
- ❖ Like those farmers, many of us expect others to do things for us. Sentences like these are very common:
 - It has never been done!
 - Who will do it?
 - How can we do it?
 - We do not know how to do it?
 - Let someone else do it?

BIBLICAL PASSAGE TO MEDITATE

Gen 3/17-19 Labour is a law of God: "in the sweat of your brow, you will eat your bread."

Job 5/6-7 "Man is born to work..."

- Ps 104/23** “Man goes out to his work and into his labour till evening”.
- Eccles 5/18** “ It is good for one to eat and drink the fruit of his work.
- Prov 10/5** “He that gathers in the harvest, is a wise man but he who snores in the summer is the son of confusion.”
- Prov 10/26; 13/4; 15/19, 18/8, 19/24; 21/25-26; 22/13; 26/13-16**
All these texts are about hard work, praising the diligent and condemning the lazy.
- Prov 10/4; 12; 24; 19/15/20/4; 21/5; 24/30-34**
All these text are about the consequences of laziness and sloth.
- 2 Thes 3/6 -15** Warning against idleness. “He who does not work, should not eat!..
- 1 Thes 4/11** Work hard “that you too aspire to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you.”
- Ps 128/2** “When you eat the labour of your hands, You shall be happy and it shall be well with you.”
- 1 Thes 2/9** “For you, brethren, remember your work and toil; For labouring night and day that we might not be a burden to anyone of you.”
- Eph 4/28** “ Let him who stole, steal no longer, but rather let him work with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him, who has need.”
- Mt 25/14-30** The Parable of the Three Servants
- Lk 6/48-19** Parable of the Two builders

Questions to Evaluate

1. Can you give the parable a spiritual meaning too?
In this case: What does the field stand for?
And the farmers? And the agriculturist?
And the cotton crops? Why?
2. How far are you stretching your hands to work hard in your community?
3. In order to attain holiness, what are you doing in your day to day religious life?

**WISHING YOU A HAPPY FEAST, HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Sr. Regi CIC