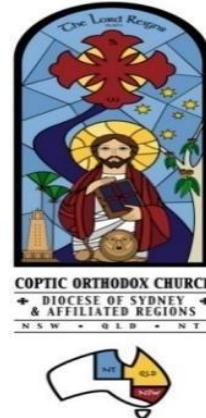


3 Misra, 1740AM  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2024  
Our Ref: B.D.02.63.23.24  
No. of Pages: 2  
No. of Attachments: 00  
Bishops' Office



**The Coptic Orthodox Church- See of Saint Mark- Diocese of Sydney and its Affiliated Regions. Sermon about:” How can we produce a good fruit? “in Saint Mark Coptic Orthodox Church, Arncliffe, Sydney, NSW, Australia, dated Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024 on the occasion of praying the Divine Liturgy for the Kids, at Saint Wannes Church inside Saint Mark Church.**

Dear beloved priests, deacons, servants and kids, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all Amen.

By the grace of God, we are going to share together some significant points about the above topic.

**1= There are many factors required to produce a good fruit, and these factors are as follows:**

**1.1= Any fruit comes forth according to its seed**, this was mentioned in **Gen.1:11:” Then God said, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so”.**

**1.2= However, the good fruit comes from a good seed**, as we read in **Matt. 13:24:” Another parable He put forth to them, saying: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field”**.

**1.3= And the spiritual meaning of the:” seed” is:**

**1.3.1= “The word of God**, as we read in **Matt. 13:23:” But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”**, as well as we read in **Luke 8:11:” The seed is the word of God”**.

**1.3.2= The sons of the kingdom**, as we read in **Matt. 13:38:” The field is the world, the good seeds are the sons of the kingdom”**.

**1.4= To bear fruit from the seed, there must be a good ground**, as mentioned above, and the spiritual meaning of:” good ground” is:

**1.4.1=:" The noble and good heart", as we read in ***Luke 8:15:*" But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."****

**1.5= The good seed as well as the good ground, need a watchful caring person, as some bad people might sow bad seed beside the good seed in your ground,** as we read in ***Matt. 13:24-25:*" <sup>24</sup>Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field; <sup>25</sup>but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way".**

**1.6= The good seed in the good ground need water to grow, and the spiritual meaning of water is:**

**1.6.1=:" **Repentance**", as John the Baptist said in ***Matt. 3: 11:*" I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance".****

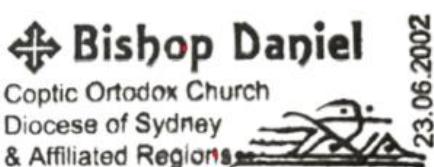
## **2= The grace of God and the seed:**

**2.1= We do not know how the seed grow.** As we read in ***Mark 4:27:*" and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how".**

**2.2= The good seed in the good ground need a time, and season,** as we read in ***Eccl. 3:1:*" Everything Has Its Time, To everything there is a season".**

**2.3= The good seed in the good ground need pruning,** as we read in ***John 15:2:*" ...and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit".**

Glory be to God.



**+ Bishop Daniel**

By the grace of God  
Bishop of the Coptic Orthodox Church, Sydney Diocese in Australia and its Affiliated Regions  
Sydney Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024.