

Mid-Week Devotion



Weeding

Read Matthew 13:1-23 “Others fell among the thorns, and the thorns came up and choked them out. “

This is a familiar parable to many; it has been used over the generations to explain why not all that hear the Word receive the eternal life it sows. Some fell on the road we're told; that is, it did not even make into the garden area and the birds came and ate the seed before it could take root. Jesus explains that this is the one, who when they heard the Word, did not understand it. Some seed fell on rocky soil; Jesus explains this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy. However, having a shallow root base, he or she falls away when affliction or persecution arises. Some fell among the thorns; Jesus explains that while the seed takes root, the “deceitfulness of wealth” chokes the life from it. Some fell on good soil; Jesus explains this is the one who hears the Word and understands it, then goes forth bearing much fruit.

Yesterday evening, I was out in my garden doing some weeding, when this passage crossed my mind. It dawned on me that even though I had sowed the seed in deep, well tilled, and cultivated soil, I still had weeds cropping up trying to choke my plants. I even had the garden sprayed to kill all the weeds before I planted, yet somehow the weeds still came up. This, I thought, was similar to the seed in Jesus' parable that was sown among the thorns; however, with one difference, in Jesus' parable, the thorns were there to begin with, while my weeds were not. Could it be that even good soil can become full of weeds, evidently so! The weeds in our life can come from any number of sources, like the television shows we chose to watch, the music we chose to listen to, the books we read, even the friends we keep. In reality, there is nothing we can do to shield ourselves from the weeds of the world in which we live. The only thing we can do is weed.

Scripture makes it clear that none of us possesses the perfect soil; we all are subject to the weeds of life. Like the plants in our gardens, our lives need weeding on a regular basis. This we do through confession, which is God's method of weeding our “gardens of the soul.” Through confession, our lives are set free of the weeds of the world that constantly try to choke the life out of us. When the weeds, choking the plants in our gardens are removed, our plants are free to grow, mature, and bear fruit. It is no different with the weeds that choke our souls; once removed we too will grow, mature, and bear much fruit for Him.

So the next time you are out in the garden on your knees doing some weeding, remember it's the perfect position to do some weeding in your own life.

Heavenly Father, You are the great Gardener of my soul. May You hear my confession that my soul may be set free from the weeds of life, so that I may bear much fruit for You and Your kingdom. Hear me now as I confess the weeds that have cropped up in my life....Amen.