

Devotion- August 10, 2024

I. today we start with basics

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:7

seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **He who has ears, let him hear.**" Mathew 13:8

Devotion: the state of being ardently dedicated and loyal (fully devoted to Jesus Christ)

a personal religious exercise or practice done in private

Abide; menō, to remain in place, to be connected as one, to endure

to continue to be present, to endure

Fruit; a product of plant growth

A. External fruit: that flows out Jesus through our lives showing God's character and love to the world

I urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:1

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Galatians 2:20

B. Internal fruit- A personal private religious practice where the nature and life of Jesus manifests itself in us -

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1

They never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" Revelation 4:8

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Revelation 5:12

C. The application is using the Devotional guide-

<https://crossroads-ridgecrest.org/daily-devotional>

D. Personal practices that cause spiritual growth and maturity in Christ's disciples-

Jesus answered, "The most important is, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." Mark 12:29

If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples. John 15:7

By having a real and personal relationship with Jesus Christ through our spiritual baptism into Christ's death and His resurrection.

By regularly engaging in reading and studying scripture apply to transform our worldview and our lives.

By seeking to be more like Jesus by taking off our old behaviors and attitudes and replacing them with the new life of Jesus Christ.

By maintaining personal communion with God and Jesus through the Holy Spirit as listen and share our lives in prayer.

By personally worshipping and God in Spirit and truth.

II. The parable of the Sower and the four soils-

Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. **He who has ears, let him hear.**" Mathew 13:1

Parable: a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle

A. "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

Then the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" And he answered them, "To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For to the one who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance, but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: "'You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.'" For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.' Mathew 13:10

1. No ears to hear-

Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive." For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them. Mathew 13:18

2. The disciples and followers had ears to hear-

But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. Mathew 13:16

Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Mat 16:24

Whoever does not bear his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:27

Disciple; mathētēs. a learner, pupil, disciple

aB. They were blessed because they were devoted to Jesus-

Blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it. Mathew 13:16

III. Hear the moral attitude and spiritual principle of the parable of the soils -

The soil; the hearts of the hearers-

For this people's heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see. Mathew 13: 15
The ones along the path are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Luke 8:12

The seed; the good news of Jesus

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. Luke 8:11

Parable; a usually short fictitious story that illustrates a moral attitude or a religious principle

A. The hard soil along the path-

"Hear then the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. Mathew 13:18

if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. II Corinthians 4:3

You are of your father the devil, He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the **truth**, because there is no **truth** in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a **liar** and the father of lies. John 8:44

You were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience— among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. Ephesians 2:1

B. The seek on the rocky ground-

As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. Mathew 13:20

Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. I Peter 5:8

C. The seed among the thorns and weeds-

As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. Mathew 13:23

I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first. If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. Revelation 2:4

D. The seed in good soil-

As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty. Mathew 13:23

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:12

IV. The application for our lives-

A. Devotion to Jesus flows from love and truth-

1. Understand the love of God for us-

We love because he first loved us. I John 4:19

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3:16

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. I Peter 2:24

For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. II Corinthians 5:21

2. Seek truth-

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me. Proverbs 8:17

Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Mathew 5:33

For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. II Timothy 4:3

3. Accept God's offer of a new life-

I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. Ezekiel 36:25

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Romans 12:1

Spiritual, logikos, pertaining to the reason or logic, agreeable to reason, following reason, reasonable, logical

B. Abide in Jesus

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