

July 13 2014

Scripture Lessons ~

Psalm 65:1-13

Isaiah 55:10-13

Matthew 13:1-9 18-23

Sermon *How is Your Garden Growing? Micki Weisbarth*

When I looked at the suggested scripture lessons for this week and saw that the parable of the sower was one of them I was excited. I like dirt! As children, my siblings and I would spend hours in the back yard, which was dirt, making roads with a hoe and playing with matchbox cars. We had lots of roads, little towns, and imagination.

My love of dirt continues as an adult. I have flower beds and a vegetable garden and it is comforting for me to work in the dirt and have the flowers grow and bloom and the vegetables grow into something that I can eat. There is just something about digging your hands in the ground and “playing in the dirt.”

However, the parable of the sower, that Paul read today, isn't really about dirt, it is about listening and taking to heart the words of God.

If we go back to the sower box that I shared with the children this is what it means.

The seeds on the hard ground represent those who hear the word but dismiss it right away. In this case the word is quickly taken away from them.

The seeds falling on the rocks represent those who hear the word, but only accept it shallowly. These people hear the word but reject the word as soon as it causes them affliction or persecution.

The seeds falling in the thorns represent those who hear the word, and take it to heart, but allow worldly concerns, to choke it.

The seeds falling on good soil represent those who hear the word, and truly understand it, causing it to bear fruit.

Thinking about myself, I at different times of my life could represent all the different parts of the sower's box. There were times, especially in my younger days, when listening to the word of God was not a part my life. Why should I have? I thought I knew what was best for me.

There were times when if I was challenged or mocked because of my faith, it would have been easier to dismiss the word of God because I wasn't strong enough to stand up for what I believed in.

Large fancy houses or expensive cars have never really been my thing but I am sure there have been times when material things were more important than listening and following the word of God.

Which brings us to the fertile soil of hearing the word and truly understanding it; I hope that I represent the fertile soil the majority of the time. It is where I listen, I understand, and I act on the words that I have heard.

So, where are you in the life of the seeds that are sown? Are you the hard dirt where the seeds blow away, the rocks where the seeds may grow but soon die, the thorns where the seeds are choked, or the fertile soil where the seeds grow and flourish with the words of our God? Think about it and strive to be the fertile soil. Be open and accepting to the word of God, no matter where you are in life's journey, no matter what has been thrown in your path. Amen.