

# On Shallowness And Distractions

*Promise: The Word of the Lord plants and cultivates life within us*

Pastor Timothy A. Duesenberg

Isaiah 55:1-13; Ps 65; Rom 8:12-17; [Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)  
(6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Pr 10), 7/12/20)

*So shall my word be that goes forth from my mouth; it shall not return empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. — Isa 55:11*

**Lead In** – Our Gospel Lesson is rightly called “The Parable of the Sower”! The seed that is broadcast is the Word of the Lord, and this seed is disseminated from Christ our Lord Himself. And even when we proclaim this Word ourselves; it is His Word that we announce! Christ is the main actor in the Christian Faith. We are being acted upon. That having been said, there is a lot of attention on soil types in this parable...

## I. The Seeds Produce Plants, Fruit, and A Harvest

- A. With lots of rain, soil alone only produces mud...
- B. Jesus explains the mixed reaction in hearers...

## II. A Fair Amount of Attention of Soil Types

- A. Beaten paths and hardened hearts...
- B. Shallow soil and sentimental emotionalism...
- C. Thorny soil and all kinds of distractions...

## III. Keep In Mind That Soil Is Acted Upon (Passive)

- A. Hardened soil is plowed and tilled...
- B. Compost is added to thin soil...
- C. The weeds have to be gotten after, continually!

**Parting Shot** – Please know, there is a mystery involved when Scriptures speak in terms of our being passive, that is, being acted upon the Word and Sacrament. We are not inanimate objects, like a rock or stump! God works not only upon us, but in and through us. Our role is more like yielding to his work. And yet, it is not like going under for surgery. In fact it will feel like a lot of effort on our part! That is why Paul could say, “Word out your own salvation with fear and trembling!” Unfortunately, we can resist God’s work in our lives! With the Parable of the Sower we do well to remember, Christ not only sows the seed, but He also prepares the soil...

**Heb 3:13** But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

**1 Tim 4:1-2** Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, through the insincerity of liars whose consciences are seared.

**Tit 1:15** To the pure, all things are pure, but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure; but both their minds and their consciences are defiled.

# Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 ESV

*The Parable of the Sower*

<sup>1</sup>That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup>And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup>And he told them many things in parables, saying: “A sower went out to sow. <sup>4</sup>And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup>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, <sup>6</sup>but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup>Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup>Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup>He who has ears, let him hear.” <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples came and said to him, “Why do you speak to them in parables?”

*The Parable of the Sower Explained*

<sup>18</sup> “Hear then the parable of the sower: <sup>19</sup>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. <sup>20</sup>As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>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. <sup>23</sup>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.”

**Mat 6:33** But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

**1 Tim 6:9-10** But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

**Phi 2:12-13** work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

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## Psalm 65

<sup>1</sup>You are to be praised, O **God**, in Zion;\*  
to you shall vows be performed  
**in** Jerusalem.

<sup>2</sup>To you that hear prayer  
shall **all** flesh come,\*  
because **of** their transgressions.

<sup>3</sup>Our sins are stronger than we are,\*  
but you will **blot** them out.

<sup>4</sup>Happy are they whom you choose  
and draw to your **courts** to dwell there!\*  
They will be satisfied  
by the beauty of your house,  
by the holiness **of** your temple.

<sup>5</sup>Awesome things will you show us  
in your righteousness  
O God of **our** salvation,\*  
O Hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the seas that are **far** away.

<sup>6</sup>You make fast the mountains  
**by** your power;\*  
they are girded **about** with might.

<sup>7</sup>You still the roaring **of** the seas,\*  
the roaring of their waves,  
and the clamor **of** the peoples.

<sup>8</sup>Those who dwell  
at the ends of the earth  
will tremble at your **marvelous** signs;\*  
you make the dawn and the dusk  
to **sing** for joy.

<sup>9</sup>You visit the earth  
and water it abundantly;  
you make it **very** plenteous;\*  
the river of God is **full** of water.

<sup>10</sup>You **prepare** the grain,\*  
for so you provide **for** the earth.

<sup>11</sup>You drench the furrows  
and smooth **out** the ridges;\*  
with heavy rain  
you soften the ground  
and **bless** its increase.

<sup>12</sup>You crown the year **with** your goodness,\*  
and your paths **overflow** with plenty.

<sup>13</sup>May the fields of the wilderness  
be **rich** for grazing,\*  
and the hills be **clothed** with joy.

<sup>14</sup>May the meadows  
cover themselves with flocks,  
and the valleys  
cloak **themselves** with grain:\*  
let them shout for **joy** and sing.

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