

Deep Roots

Salvation is a tremendous mystery. Even after we are saved, we have to strive to enter through the door to the kingdom. It is not an easy road, and it is narrow.

³And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹He who has ears, let him hear." (Mt 13:3-9)

Then the disciples asked why He spoke to them in parables. He told them that to them it had been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of heaven, but not to others (verses 11-17). We have experienced that in so many ways in the last thirty years. We have seen people who have been baptized, and the seed that went into the fertile soil started producing some 100, some 60, and some 30. But in others it didn't take root somehow. It sprang up for a little while, but then the cares of the world came in, the tribulations and the hardships, and the sun came up and scorched it, and it didn't bear fruit. Do you think the majority are wheat or tares?

²⁴"Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' ²⁸In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." (Lk 13:24-30)

He is talking about being saved for the Kingdom. He doesn't know where they are from, because it wasn't one of the places where He could be served (Jn 12:26). Their

deeds were lawless deeds. We have to understand and apply this to the Body. Those who are first will be last, and the last will be first, because at the judgment He will judge everyone's motive.

When we look at all the people who have been baptized, in some the seed fell on good soil, taking root in the heart where the fertile soil is, and bearing fruit. But then some didn't make it. I don't know whether it was the seed sown on the path, or choked out with other things, or whether it was hardship, but it didn't take root and produce fruit. There is no such thing as a disciple who bears less than 30-fold. If someone is baptized, that seed has to take root in the fertile soil of his heart so it can produce 30, 60, or 100 times as much, or else when hardship and suffering comes and the sun beats down, he will just flee away, as so many have.

We want the seed to go into the very fertile soil in their hearts, not on the rocky paths. The roots try to go down, but hit the rocks, and it just doesn't go any further. Then the sun comes out and beats upon it, and it burns it up. It doesn't have any nourishment. But the seed that puts down a deep root, the sun can't dry it up, because it is getting its nourishment from where the water is down below. If you over-water a plant, it is like putting it on welfare. The roots don't have to go anywhere. It's shallow. But if you add water properly, then the roots go down to find the water, and that is good and normal.

Our Father searched and found Derush, and He is finding out where his roots are going. Are they going to hit a rock, or are they going deep into the nourishing, cultivated soil, finding water and nutrients? He has gone through suffering, I am sure. The enemy tries to come in and say this and that to him, trying to lead him astray. How else could it be? Satan has to do that. But he is enduring, and putting down his roots. We have to be tested. So that is why we want to make sure that the seed goes into the heart, so they don't say, "Well, I don't know whether I want to suffer."

Our Master suffered, and we have to suffer (Rom 8:17-18; 2 Cor 4:17; Phil 1:29). Don't think you are not going to go through suffering. We're not going to have a comfortable little flight to the Kingdom. We are going to have suffering. If our roots go down deep, we will be able to bear the heat of the sun. No one escapes that. But if the roots don't go deep, what happens to the plant? It withers up; it dries up and blows away. Our Father throws it into the fire. But if the roots go down deep into the soil, they endure, they endure... That is those who are saved.

We have seen a lot of fakes and phonies in the last thirty years, people we thought were true disciples, but then when persecution or hardship came, or they didn't get their own way, it just revealed who they really were. Some can fake it for a while, but eventually everyone's true character is revealed.

Mt 24:9-14 — Who is going to be that witness? Those people whose roots go down deep in the soil. They are going to be the witness; otherwise they are just going to dry up and blow away because of hardship, or because they don't get their own way, because they are selfish. They don't see our Master whatsoever. They could care less that He suffered, and they don't want to suffer with Him. They just want a free ride to heaven, but that is just not going to happen.

David Shemuel — It may seem as if the sun is a bad thing because it dries you out. If you don't have the water that is from your brothers, then the seed will die.

So when we receive the Holy Spirit, we have to be each other's water boy. Our Father is honoring us by giving us these three wonderful men here. Another one left, but that is how it goes. Who is willing to do our Father's will? So many are willing to do our Father's will, but how will they ever hear? They can never hear from the one who is seeking his own glory.

So we have to go out there and get them. We have to devise some way to get the Word to them. I don't know how many still have the little Billy Graham "Stirring of the

Heart” freepaper, under their bed or somewhere. Someday, they will pick it up and read it. We have known people who passed a whole year before they rediscovered their freepaper. Then they read it and came to us and were saved. So we have to really pray — we have to be a house of prayer, praying that our Father could reach people’s hearts. There are over six billion people on the earth, and then here we are.

We don’t even know our potential, what we are able to do. We are all growing up, and our roots are going down deep, if you see the fruit coming forth. First you see the green leaves, and then pretty soon you start seeing the little buds coming forth, and then the fruit.

We invest so much time and energy in people, and then we see them leave. It is just like having a wife or husband who is unfaithful. It is horrible that anyone would become unfaithful to our Master — the most horrible thing in the world. We want to remain faithful. Many are called, but few are chosen, and fewer still remain faithful. The chosen are still saved, but the faithful are the ones who enter through the narrow door. Because they were faithful, they loved our Master, and their roots went down deep, and they produced 30, 60, or 100-fold. If we produce *much* fruit, we prove to be His disciples.

Jn 15:7-8 — If we abide in Him and His words abide in us, then we will bear much fruit. Isn’t that wonderful? And who is glorified? Our Father is glorified. Can you imagine us being able to glorify our Father? Does He just glorify Himself? No, He is glorified through you, me, and us bearing fruit. We are going to bear fruit if our roots go down deep into the soil. Then we can’t help but bear fruit. You don’t have to say, “What can I do in order to bear fruit?” Just get your roots down to our Master, where His Spirit is, where His love is, and then you are going to bear fruit in what you do and how you do it, what you say and how you say it.

It is so wonderful to be able to love. A friend is one who loves at all times. A friend and a brother were born to help one another out in adversities. We are allied

together in the same struggle. We have to go through things together, watering our brothers and sisters so that our roots can go down deep.

Derush — I don't understand a lot, but I understand cement, and I understand that the longer cement stays together the stronger it is. So the longer that we stay together then the stronger our love is.

Jn 13:35 — Here is what we have to do, not just little us, but we are going to expand and grow, and this is what we *all* have to do. "All men will know that you are My disciples by your love for one another." That is going to happen. It hasn't come about yet, but it is going to. We are going to make it come about because we love one another. We are not going to get offended. The self-life has a touchy disposition.

All things will be revealed one day, so we'd better get it out now and not wait for judgment. Our Father loves it when we confess our sins, because He loves us. He knows that if we don't confess our sins we will never prosper. So don't ever hide anything; be totally honest. No one has ever prospered who wasn't honest.

In the beginning it was just ha-êmeq and I, and then 30 or 40 people came and packed around us, and it scared us to death. But our Father was with us, and we started speaking and sharing. It is just amazing what will happen if we just give our lives to Him. We'll go out and start communities everywhere. All you have to do is give a card out and invite people home.