

Sunday, July 12, 2026 – Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55: 10-11

10 - As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
11- so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

Psalms 65: 9-10

9 - You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it.
10 - You water its furrows abundantly, softening it with showers and blessing its growth.

Cf. north vs. southeast sides of Granite Mountain

Romans 8: 1-11

1 - There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Cf. Romans 5: 1 – Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

3-4 - God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us.

7-8 - The mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot. Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 - But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit since the Spirit of God dwells in you.

11 - If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

What kind of soil are you at this particular time in your life?

Or are there ways in which – all at the same time – in some ways you are like the hardened path, in some ways you are like the rocky ground, in some ways your life is full of thorns, and in some ways you are like good soil?

4 - And as he sowed, **some seeds fell on the path**, and the birds came and ate them up.

19 - When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was **sown on the path**.

Are there some things that you do that make your life like a hardened path?

Are there some things that have happened to you that have made your life like a hardened path?

What could you do – what could you ask God to do – to soften your life and make you more receptive to His Word?

Cf. preparing the soil in Walnut, CA

5-6 - **Other seeds fell on rocky ground**, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away.

20-21 - As for what was **sown on rocky ground**, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away.

How deep are your roots into the love and power of God?

Are they deep enough for the really tough times in life?

What could you do – what could you ask God to do – what could you let God do – to make your roots go deeper?

Ephesians 3:18-19 – "I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."

Tod Bolsinger re "Resilience in a (Permanent) Crisis" - maintaining your core purpose and integrity even in the face of adversity and constant change

Be really clear about what is essential – what is worthy of enduring – hold on to what is most important

What is it that if you stopped doing it, you would lose your identity?

Knowing the answer to that question will help give you energy to endure through the toughest times of life

7 - **Other seeds fell among thorns**, and the thorns grew up and choked them.

22 - As for what was **sown among thorns**, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing.

What are the things that could choke out the seed of the Word of God in your life?

What could you do about them?

8 - **Other seeds fell on good soil** and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

23 - But as for what was **sown on good soil**, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Bob Buford – 100 X

We are not all going to produce a hundredfold

In the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 the master said the exact same thing to the one who had produced two talents more as he said to the one who had produced five talents more