

dec 27

another day, another dollar, as they say. while many people may be headed out to work this day, there are others of us, retired (or still on vacation) and looking for things to fill their day with. but my mind is on those in full time ministry. they are thinking about God's business for the day.

how many have ever thought about the word business? it is really saying "bus-i-ness". is our busyness about the things of this world or are we busy about God's things. oh yes, i know we all need gainful employment or profit making efforts. there should be time set aside for that. in the same sense, there should be time set aside for God.

just as one cultivates a business relationship, one must also cultivate a relationship with their Lord. this world and all it's offerings are quickly passing away. even if they were to endure for another thousand years, we shall not.

my thoughts just keep going back to the parable about the sower. "behold, a sower went out to sow. and as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. but when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. and some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. but others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

matt 13:3-8

the seed all depends on what type of soil it is sown into. "sow for yourselves righteousness; reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, till He comes and rains righteousness on you." hos 10:12 it is up to us to keep our soil tilled and ready to receive seed. this is not just a one-time thing. if we are listening, others are always tossing out seed to be received; some good and some bad. that will take a close relationship with our Lord to distinguish which is which.

our Lord said He would allow the tares to grow alongside of the wheat. that's because He loves each blade of good wheat so much. He doesn't want to disturb the rooting of that good wheat by digging up the tares. of course, He is no longer talking about crops of food here but crops of souls. how many times has a babe in Christ become disillusioned by the actions of another?

"but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea." matt 18:6 that's how much He treasures each of us. the word says that a sparrow does not fall apart from His will. also, that the very hairs on our head are numbered. i don't know about you, but every morning as i comb my hair i say, "Lord, time for a recount". the hair on my head is thinning daily.

what does all this really amount to? "do not fear

therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows."
matt 10:31 yes; valued, treasured and loved. the One
who spoke all things into being treasures us the most.
He wrote in zech 2:8, "he who touches you touches the
apple of His eye." yes, this was spoken of israel but
paul says we are grafted in.

the apple of the eye, of course, is not a fruit, but
the pupil of the eye, so essential for sight that it
becomes a peculiarly apt symbol for a prized
possession. we are His "prized possession". is He
yours?

so let us prepare our soil (hearts) to receive the good
seeds sown in it. i am reminded of pastor jimmy evans
as he spoke at the funeral of marcus lamb. as he stood
before many renown preachers he said, "i feel like i
need to repent for stealing so many of your sermons. i
would but i'm not finished yet." that may not be
verbatim, but you get the gist.

when we exit this world or this world exits us, we will
then know the things that truly matter. these will be
our "prized possession" even as we are His.

linda