



A Sower Went Out

By F.T. Paterson

“Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred.” (Mark 4:3-8, KJV)

Jesus often used examples from everyday life in the Palestine of His day. This was very different from the teaching of the religious leaders of the day. Their teaching was based on the law as it was interpreted by generations of former teachers of the law. The law of Moses stated that one should observe the Sabbath and keep it holy unto the Lord. The interpreters of the law then put limits on how far one could travel on the Sabbath day (Acts 1:120). How far you walk on the Sabbath day or any other day really has not much to do with holiness. The interpretation of the law degenerated into laws and many different sub headings of that law. It was no doubt like a breath of fresh air to hear the things that Jesus taught because it made sense and, as the people said, He taught as one with authority (Matt.7:28-29). It appeared that the

people were constantly amazed at His teaching because it was so different from the teachers of the law.

“Then he returned to Capernaum, a city in Galilee, and preached there in the synagogue every Saturday. Here, too, the people were amazed at the things he said. For he spoke as one who knew the truth, instead of merely quoting the opinions of others as his authority” (Luke 4:31-32, TLB).

In the afore mentioned parable, ‘A sower went out to sow,’ Jesus brought forth an event that most everyone of His day would have been familiar with, the sowing of seeds. They would have been familiar with the different types of soil and the reason that the sower went forth to sow, which was to bring forth a harvest. In order for there to be a good harvest the soil would have to be prepared before hand. The weeds and stones would need to be removed and the soil would have to be cultivated. Only then would the farmer broadcast the seed on the land. In preparing the land the stones and trash would have been removed and placed around the edge of the cultivated land along the wayside or walking path. In casting the seed, most of it would fall on the cultivated land, some would fall on the path that was hardened by the steps of many feet and some on the rocks and weeds around the edge. This may not be completely accurate but close enough to have some understanding of what Jesus was talking about.

In explaining this parable Jesus

likened the different types of soil to the condition of men’s hearts and the seed to the Word of God. Some have a tendency to liken the good soil to the saved and the unproductive soil to the unsaved. Certainly one can make that assumption, and it would be completely accurate, but it can also be likened to the heart of every man or woman saved or unsaved. The wayside represents the heart hardened by the experiences of life, possibly things that may have even happened in childhood. Our hearts can be hardened by abuse, bitterness, anger, unforgiveness, offences and other negative experiences. The heart hardened by these negative experiences of life, or the ravishes of sin, will not be receptive to the Spirit of God or the Word of God and these experiences can be likened to the birds of the air which come and devour the seed before it can begin to grow.

“But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness” (Heb 3:13, NIV).

We need to encourage one another so that our hearts can be receptive to the seed of the Word of God. Those who are represented by the rocky soil hear the Word and because they have no depth of root they soon whither away. There is no foundation of righteousness and as soon as trouble comes they have no strength in themselves, they get discouraged and are not any better off than before they heard the Word.

“But he that heareth, and doeth not,

is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great” (Luke 6:49, KJV).

The seed sown on thorny ground is like the heart that hears the Word and lets the cares of life rob them of the blessing that they could have received had they realized that the Lord was well able to supply their needs according to His riches in glory.

“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Phil 4:19, KJV).

Without depth of root and weighed down with the cares of this life a person tends to be unstable and vacillates from one way to another.

“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8, KJV).

Instability becomes the pattern in the life of the double minded man. He makes a commitment then falls away until the next time he makes a commitment again. This would be the pattern of the seed sown on rocky and thorny ground. Every time the seed was sown it would fall into these unproductive places again and begin to grow. Because of the lack of root and being choked out by the weeds it would not be able to come to maturity.

“When you find men who have been enlightened, who have experienced salvation and received the Holy Spirit, who have known the wholesome nourishment of the Word of God and touched the spiritual resources of the eternal world and who then fall away, it proves impossible to make them repent as they did at first” (Heb. 6:4-8, Phillips).

I cannot feature that God would ever turn anyone away no matter how often they fall away and come seeking His forgiveness. I believe, however, that this process would become more difficult each time until one might just stop trying.

One thing God requires of us is a soft and willing heart. When Solomon was made king of Israel he prayed that God would give him the wisdom to rule the nation.

“Now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. So

give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?” (1 Kings 3:7-9, NIV) If we have a willing and obedient heart we will eat the good of the land; in other words we will produce a harvest (Isa 1:19).

Good Soil

“Don’t be under any illusion: you cannot make a fool of God! A man’s harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows. If he sows for his own lower nature his harvest will be the decay and death of his own nature. But if he sows for the Spirit he will reap the harvest of everlasting life by that Spirit. Let us not grow tired of doing good, for, unless we throw in our hand, the ultimate harvest is assured. Let us then do good to all men as opportunity offers, especially to those who belong to the Christian household” (Gal. 6:7-10, Phillips).

In the illustration of the sower the seed he sowed in good soil brought forth abundantly. Before he began to sow the soil in the plot of land it was all the same soil, it was only as it was prepared that it became good soil. The sower needed to clear the land of the rocks and the weeds. He also needed to cultivate to make the ground fertile. Isa 5 gives us an allegory of a vineyard with fertile soil prepared to produce sweet grapes but rather produced sour grapes. In verse 7 the vineyard is likened to Israel, even though good vines were put in good soil it did not produce a good crop.

“My beloved has a vineyard on a rich and fertile hill. He plowed the land, cleared its stones, and planted it with choice vines. In the middle he built a watchtower and carved a winepress in the nearby rocks. Then he waited for a harvest of sweet grapes, but the grapes that grew were wild and sour (Isa 5:1-2, NLT).

Even though the soil and the seed is good there are things that can affect the harvest as well. If the soil is watered with polluted water or not nourished with nutrients it will affect the yield of the crop. The good soil in our hearts needs to be nourished by the Word of God and prayer to bring forth a bountiful harvest. Our soil can be soured by the effects of the world and our carnal nature. We can hold onto hurts, offences and opinions and the good soil in our hearts will become unproductive.

Rocky Soil

“The rocky soil represents those who hear the message and receive it with joy. But like young plants in such soil, their roots don’t go very deep. At first they get along fine, but they wilt as soon as they have problems or are persecuted because they believe the word” (Mark 4:16-18, NLT). The rocky soil is covered with stones that have been formed little by little over the years. Sand and other material form stones under pressure; this is like habits and traditions that form year after year by the pressures of living in our lives.

“But now put away and rid yourselves [completely] of all these things: anger, rage, bad feeling toward others, curses and slander, and foulmouthed abuse and shameful utterances from your lips!” (Col 3:8-9, AMP)

“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:” (Eph 4:31, KJV).

These are like the stones that are formed in our lives by the pressures of life and our carnal nature. There is no depth of root in the stony soil because there is no depth of soil. Our Christian lives are built upon a foundation of faith and trust in the Lord, without which we are continually concerned about our security. We are like a house built upon the shifting, unstable sand of this world’s living (Luke 6:47). When trouble comes we have no place to put our trust and our house is unstable without a sure foundation. The house built upon the foundation of faith and trust in the Lord withstands the storm no matter how terrible. This is the foundation that the saints of old built their lives upon. Though they were sent to the arena, stoned, scourged and treated cruelly they refused to let these things bring down their house because it was built upon a sure foundation (Heb 11). It could be that the house built on the sand and the one built upon the foundation were even built in the same location, the difference being that the house built on the foundation had removed the sand and dug down to bedrock to lay their foundation while the house built upon the sand did not clear away the sand so that it could be built on the rock. It is time, saints of God, to clear away the debris of this world’s ideas of living, dig down to the bedrock of faith and trust and build a

house that cannot be shaken by the storms of life.

Evil Speaking

To speak against someone, or gossip about them, is evil speaking. Scripture tells us that we should be kind and loving to one another.

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:32, KJV).

I don’t really understand why it seems so satisfying to repeat things we have heard about a brother or sister. We do them a great disservice, and, more to the point we do ourselves a greater disservice. Gossip is generally malicious with no purpose in helping the person talked about. Pride is the father of gossip. It lifts us up and drags down the other person. If there is a need to talk to someone about an issue the only one we should talk to is the person himself.

“Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently. But watch yourself, or you also may be tempted. Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. If anyone thinks he is something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. Each one should test his own actions. Then he can take pride in himself, without comparing himself to somebody else,” (Gal 6:1-5 NIV).

“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts” (Prov 26:22, NIV).

“Without wood a fire goes out; without gossip a quarrel dies down” (Prov 26:20, NIV).

“A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret” (Prov 11:13, NIV).

The word ‘gossip’ is not found in the King James version, other translations interpret it as whisperer, talebearer or rumor.

Thorny Ground

“The thorny ground represents those who hear and accept the Good News, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for nice things, so no crop is produced.” (Mark 4:18-20, NLT).

The cares of life often weigh us down with worry about the future. God says “Your future is in my hands”

“Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow

will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matt 6:33-34, NIV).

In the body of Christ there are many ways that we are encouraged, by the ministry of the body. We encourage one another by fellowship and giving a kind word when we notice that someone is downcast.

“Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. Say to those with anxious heart, “Take courage, fear not” (Isa 35:3-4, NASU).

The uncertainty of life can cause us to become fearful but there is no fear in love because perfect love casts out fear (1 John 4:18).

Faith came singing into my room

Faith came singing into my room, the other guests took flight,

Fear anxiety grief and gloom, fled out into the night.

I wondered how such peace could be, but faith said gently can’t you see,

They really cannot live with me, they cannot live with me

Author Unknown

**And yet I’m very sad to say that fears and cares still try to stay*

And take all my peace away, take all my peace away.

It’s then I turn and look away, remembering how faith came that day,

And faith came singing into my room and banished all of my gloom

**F T P*

Said the robin to the sparrow

Said the robin to the sparrow, “I would surely like to know,

Why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so.”

Said the sparrow to the robin, “friend I think that it must be,

That they have no Heavenly Father, such as cares for you and me.”

Elizabeth Cheny

How is it that faith, trust and love can abide even in the midst of adversity? (1Cor 13) It is because they are born on the wings of the Spirit of God. It is as the fruit of the Spirit is produced in our lives that faith, trust and love come forth (Gal 5:22). The sower goes forth and plants the Word of God in our hearts and, depending on what kind of soil we are, growth starts and begins to bring forth a harvest.

“For the soil made the seeds grow. First a leaf-blade pushed through, and later the wheat-heads formed and finally the grain ripened, and then the farmer came at once with his sickle and

harvested it.” (Mark 4:28-29, TLB).

If we keep the soil of our hearts free of the weeds that hamper the growth of the seed of the Word and nourish our spiritual man by the Spirit we will be as the good soil and bring forth a bountiful harvest of the things of God. In my limited experience of gardening it did not take long to realize that to plant the seed was only a small part of bringing forth the harvest. There are weeds to pull, pests to get rid of, watering to be done, staking of the plants, keeping watch and sometimes just looking over the garden to dream about how good the tomatoes will taste.

Hardened Soil

Underneath the hardened soil, stones, and thorns the soil can be made arable. The hardened soil needs to be cultivated to make it productive.

“ Sow for yourselves according to righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God); reap according to mercy and loving-kindness. Break up your uncultivated ground, for it is time to seek the Lord, to inquire for and of Him, and to require His favor, till He comes and teaches you righteousness and rains His righteous gift of salvation upon you” (Hos 10:12, AMP).

We cannot earn spirituality but we can cultivate it.

Rocky soil

The stones of bitterness, unforgiveness and bad feelings between saints of God need to be removed.

“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you” (Eph 4:31-32, NIV).

“Now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator” (Col 3:8-10, NIV). How are we to get rid of these stones which make our soil unproductive? I will let the scripture answer that:

“Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden

with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Col 3:1-4, NIV).

"Here is a last piece of advice. If you believe in goodness and if you value the approval of God, fix your minds on the things which are holy and right and pure and beautiful and good. Model your conduct on what you have learned from me, on what I have told you and shown you, and you will find the God of peace will be with you" (Phil 4:8-9, Phillips).

Thorny ground

"For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and to Jerusalem: Break up your ground left uncultivated for a season, so that you may not sow among thorns" (Jer 4:3, AMP).

One thing I have found is that weeds seem to have the ability to mimic good plants, especially when they are young. The two grow together almost the same until they mature and by that time they have taken a lot of water and nutrients from the good plants and unless you get rid of them they will take over. This is much like the weeds of sin and carnality in our lives. At first they don't appear to be a problem. Then they tend to become more ingrained and take over our lives. Small hurts become larger hurts. Little annoyances grow and become anger. Small offences become large offences until they cause divisions in our lives and in the church. Marriages are torn apart, bitterness comes between friends and family. Possibly we all can think of other things that start out small and grow into great issues unless we deal with them when they are small. Jesus told the parable of the man that sowed good seed in his field and an enemy came and sowed tares among the good plants. When asked why the tares or weeds were in his field he said "An enemy has done this" (Matt 13: 24-30). True, the enemy of our soul is always waiting to sow the seeds of discontent in our soil, therefore, we should try our best to remove them before they can come to maturity.

"Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity" (Ecclesiastes 11:10, KJV).

The reason we need to get rid of these things is that it is time for the church to get her house in order. The time is come for the church to enter into a place of power in the earth. Judgement must first begin at the house of God. (1 Peter 4:17).

Unity is not something nice to talk about, it is imperative that we enter into it.

"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity" (Ps 133:1, NKJV)!

Unity is precious in the Lord's sight and until the church arrives at the place of unity we will keep desiring but not entering into maturity. The body of Christ is diverse, different gifts and ministries, different personalities but we should all be headed in the same direction and working together in harmony. Here are some of the scriptures that remind us of this fact.

"So you are no longer outsiders or aliens, but fellow-citizens with every other Christian - you belong now to the household of God. Firmly beneath you in the foundation, God's messengers and prophets, the actual foundation-stone being Jesus Christ himself. In him each separate piece of building, properly fitting into its neighbour, grows together into a temple consecrated to God. You are all part of this building in which God himself lives by his spirit" (Ephesians 2:19-22, Phillips).

"For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another" (Rom 12:4-5, KJV). "Make it your aim to be at one in the Spirit, and you will inevitably be at peace with one another. You all belong to one body, of which there is one Spirit, just as you all experienced one calling to one hope. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God, one Father of us all, who is the one over all, the one working through all and the one living in all" (Eph 4:3-6, Phillips).

I firmly believe that God is setting the scene for the greatest event of all the ages. He has pulled back the curtain of time and allowed us a glimpse of what lies in the future. The pinnacle of the ages is upon us. He has allowed us to know the secret of His plan, to see somewhat of the glory that shall be invested in the church.

"And to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms" (Eph 3:9-11, NIV),

"In my opinion whatever we may have to go through now is less than nothing compared with the magnificent future God has planned for us. The whole creation is on tiptoe to see the wonderful sight of the sons of God coming into their own. The world of creation cannot as yet see reality, not because it chooses to be blind, but because in God's purpose it has been so limited - yet it has been given hope. And the hope is that in the end the whole of created life will be rescued from the tyranny of change and decay, and have its share in that magnificent liberty which can only belong to the children of God! It is plain to anyone with eyes to see that at the present time all created life groans in a sort of universal travail. And it is plain, too, that we who have a foretaste of the Spirit are in a state of painful tension, while we wait for that redemption of our bodies which will mean that at last we have realized our full sonship in him. We were saved by this hope, but in our moments of impatience let us remember that hope always means waiting for something that we haven't yet got. But if we hope for something we cannot see, then we must settle down to wait for it in patience" (Rom 8:18 -25, Phillips).

We are workers together with God in bringing this deliverance to creation (2 Cor 6:1). It has always bothered me when I read on bumper stickers, 'God is my co-pilot.' I don't know about you but I want God to be my pilot. I want Him to be in charge and in His good time to bring deliverance to creation and bring to birth sons of God to rule and reign with Him. That is why it is so important that we prepare the good soil of our hearts to receive the seed of the Word of God. The seed that comes from God is good seed and if it is planted in good soil it will bring forth some thirty some sixty and some one-hundred fold. God always plants good seed but He leaves the preparing of the land to us. He chided Israel because the good seed He planted brought forth a poor harvest.

"Yet I had planted you [O house of Israel] a choice vine, wholly of pure seed. How then have you turned into degenerate shoots of wild vine alien to Me?" (Jer 2:21, AMP)

Our soil may be hardened, rocky or full of weeds. We may not even be aware of this. The soil must be improved in order for it to produce a bountiful harvest. As we mature in the

things of God the Spirit of God will make real to us the condition of our soil. If we cultivate the hardened ground, remove the stones and get rid of the weeds and in truth cry out to God for a

bountiful harvest we will see our soil produce some thirty, some sixty and some one hundred fold. At the moment our heart may be hardened, rocky and full of weeds and we may be tempted to

give up and say “What’s the use, I can never change my heart condition?” It is true that we cannot change the condition of our heart, but God can. Remember, a repentant heart God will never turn away.

Chapters 12 & 13 of Zechariah

By Albert York

(taken from a tape)

All scriptures are taken from the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

Jesus is wonderful, but there’s a heavy burden on God because of the vanity of man and because of man’s perversity. Over and over again, He has shown mercy to the remnant. Over and over again, He has shown grace and favour where man didn’t deserve it. And that is the nature of our God. He is so wonderful.

I would like to read from Zechariah, the twelfth and thirteenth chapters. Now, what we are about to read, perhaps some of it is fulfilled, but I know some of it is not as yet fulfilled. God has a way of tucking certain secrets in things that He says in the past, bringing it to pass at a certain time, and reserving the rest for a time later. Whatever is in the mind of God in this scripture and in this passage, may He illuminate our hearts and minds to emphasize in our soul that we know that He’s in charge of everything and everybody. As we yield to Him and to His purpose for our life, we will find that it unfolds in a manner that we never thought possible.

“The burden of the word of the Lord against Israel. Thus says the Lord, who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him:” (Zech. 12:1). God wants us to know, more and more, who He is, what His works are, and how He can help us. Just note what the prophet says here by way of understanding about God: he says He forms the spirit of man within Him. Paul, in writing to the Corinthians said, “For what man knoweth the things of man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God” (I Cor. 2:11, *KJV*). This meeting of your spirit and God’s Spirit is beyond description as far as human words are concerned;

but it is the most important part of our tenure here. Amen! Glory to God!

“Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of drunkenness to all the surrounding peoples, when they lay siege against Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall happen in that day that I will make Jerusalem a very heavy stone for all peoples; all who would heave it away will surely be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth are gathered against it” (Zech. 12:2-3). As I read this, this morning, I realized how heavy the stone really is, both in the natural Israel and in the Spiritual Israel. Man continues to resist the Spirit of God at every hand. Don’t they? You talk to people about the Spirit, and they have another opinion. You talk about Israel, and the world is divided over that in the natural. But God is the one who has created all of those things, you and I included.

“In that day,” says the Lord, “I will strike every horse with confusion, ...” (Now, I don’t know whether that is a figure of speech or not. I’ll leave that up to the dear Lord to interpret. If there isn’t confusion in the world today, what is there?) “...and it’s rider with madness; I will open My eyes on the house of Judah, and will strike every horse of the peoples with blindness” (Zech 12:4). It must be terrible to be blind. Whenever I see a man with a white cane, my heart goes out to him, because at one point my eyesight was starting to fade, and I realized that unless something could be done about it, I wouldn’t be able to see and drive anymore. So, they put in a new lens. But that isn’t the blindness that I think God’s talking about. He’s talking about that kind that creates in man an imagination of his own, and not a reality of the sight that God gives by His Spirit of True Reality.

“And the governors of Judah shall say in their heart, “The inhabitants of Jerusalem are my strength in the Lord of

hosts, their God.” In that day I will make the governors of Judah like a fire pan in the wood pile, and like a fiery torch in the sheaves; they shall devour all the surrounding peoples on the right hand and on the left, but Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place— Jerusalem” (Zech. 12:5-6). Man is trying to figure out the phenomenon of Israel, the Called, the Seed of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, and they need to seek God to find out that the true Israel and the New Jerusalem is coming down from God out of Heaven, Hallelujah, and He’s making those who will believe a part of the glory that is coming for the ages as they unfold.

“The Lord will save the tents of Judah first, so that the glory of the house of David and the glory of the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall not become greater than that of Judah. In that day, the Lord will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the Lord before them” (Zech 12:7-8). Now, it is indeed a startling thing to realize that God evens everything out. The feeble will become strong; the strong will become weak, because the Dear Lord is in control. This is consistent with His teaching to the disciples on the Mountain that day. Blessed are they that are humble, for they are the children of God. Or, as the scripture says, “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth. ... Blessed are the peacemakers, etc., ...” and He continues to give the— should I call it the epitome of the New Commandments? or the nature of the New Commandments?—in the beatitudes on the Mount that day (Matthew 5:3-11, *KJV*).

“It shall be in that day that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of

grace and supplication; then they will look on Me, whom they have pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn” (Zech 12:9-10). They rejected Him at Calvary, but this, my beloved brothers and sisters, is a different scenario altogether. That Spirit of grace and supplication will change the whole atmosphere. “And they will look on Me, whom they have pierced.” May the Dear Lord bring this to pass as soon as possible; for surely the hand of God will bring to pass what He has had in mind as He spake by the prophets of Old. Today is the day, I am sure, that the whole thing is being set up to bring to pass that looking for Jesus, that looking for the Son of God: the one whom Isaiah prophesied about; the one that will be the ruler over all the nations; the one that shall bring unity; the one that shall take confusion all away because God hath made Him head over the Body. He will bring in the Kingdom of Peace and Joy and Righteousness.

My heart yearns for this hour to take place. And I trust that in this generation it shall come to pass, for the poor world is weary with the perversity, and sin, and lawlessness that is abounding more and more. We need the absolute authority of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords that the change might come. God has the grace. God has the supplication. And He will pour it out. He will pour it out! Hasten the hour, Dear Lord, that we may see Thy glory, that we may behold all Thy purpose and all that Thou has planned, that we may see with the understanding of faith the love that You have for Your creation and for Your people whom will love You and serve You and will walk with You.

“In that day, there will be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves” (Zech 12:11-13). Why He makes such an

enumeration of families, I am sure has its purpose, as the Spirit has been teaching us the values of the proper structure of the family. But every family by itself, and their wives by themselves? Why this supplication? Why this mourning?

The next verse says, “In that day a fountain shall be opened for the House of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness. It shall be in that day,” says the Lord of hosts, “that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, ...” (Zech 13:1-2). Oh, what a change. Oh, what a change! Oh! What a change!! “I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall no longer be remembered” (Zech 13:2). Every once in a while, I think, “Well, maybe it’d be interesting to find out what this ‘ism’ is, or that ‘ism’ is.” And I’ve heard, over the years where we’ve been in other countries and prayed for people, what they’ve told us about their religion and their “ism,” and I’m not going to name them because there are too many that we’ve encountered. But as we prayed for the people, many times their “isms” faded. Their “isms” faded because they became aware of the glory of the Lord as we laid our hands upon them to receive the Holy Spirit. They forgot about their culture, and they forgot about the way that they had been taught, because the Spirit of God came upon them when we laid our hands upon them, and they received the Holy Spirit, cutting off the names of the idols from the land, no longer to be remembered.

I was given a book about a certain culture. I read the headlines, I read the preface, but this morning, I can’t remember hardly a thing about that book. It’s on the shelf in my home somewhere. But somehow, there isn’t that drawing to know about the cultures of the past, and here I find this morning the reason for it is that He is going to cut these things off. “And I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to depart from the land” (Zech 13:2). Well, we should all stand up and shout that that’s going to happen, shouldn’t we? You believe the Word of the Lord! Amen! Hallelujah!

Now, the next verse is pretty drastic. I don’t know if it will happen literally, but it is all in God’s hands. “It shall come to pass that, if anyone still prophesies, ...” (of course, Zechariah is talking about prophesying by the

unclean spirit) “... then his father and mother who begot him will say to him, “You shall not live because you have spoken lies in the name of the Lord” (Zech 13:3). A very serious situation, and it’s going on all the time. The Lord knows it’s going on, and He’s opening the eyes of some of His dear people to understand that this shall not be in the kingdom. “And his father and mother who begot him shall thrust him through when he prophesies” (Zech 13:3). I don’t know if that will happen literally or spiritually—that’s in God’s hands. “And it shall be in that day that every prophet will be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies; they will not wear a robe of coarse hair to deceive. But he will say, “I am not prophet, I am a farmer; for a man taught me to keep cattle from my youth” (Zech 13:4-5). Well, I could say a lot of things about farmers. The farm is where my father caused me to understand the exigencies of life: what was right, and what was wrong; what would work, and what wouldn’t work. My mother and father received the salvation of the Lord in 1930, and I am ever so grateful that they taught me in His ways. “But I am a farmer.” So, I don’t know whether I should elaborate on this or not, but all of these who have cards identifying themselves, the Lord’s going to tear those cards all up, and they are going to have to issue new ones, and put on there “I am a farmer or carpenter,” etc.

“And one will say to him, “What are these wounds in your hands?” Then he will answer, “Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends” (Zech 13:3). Precious Jesus, alive from the dead, Head of the Body, the one who bore it all, took away our guilt by His great and marvellous sacrifice. The Father raised Him to live forevermore, and to rule and reign in the Kingdom. He’s reigning now in your heart by the Spirit. He’ll make all these changes in this poor old world, for the world is groaning and travailing now in pain, waiting for the Son, with the Sons, coming forth to rule and reign in equity and in righteousness, peace, and joy.

“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, Against the Man who is My Companion,” says the Lord of hosts. ‘Strike the Shepherd, And the sheep will be scattered;’ (Zech 13:7). This happened in the garden of Gethsemane. “Then I will turn My hand against the little ones. And it shall come to pass in all the land,’

Says the Lord, "That two-thirds of it shall be cut off and die, But one-third shall be left in it:" (Zech 13:7-8). This may match with some of the events unfolding in the book of Revelation. I'm not going to try and match them in

any way. I know the One who can match it all and work it all out, Hallelujah, in His great plan, and in His great purpose. "I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined," (Zech 13:9). As the Spirit of God was speaking to us in the local church service through prophecy and so on, I thought how fitting this scripture is to what He was saying.

"I will bring the one third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested" (Zech 13:9). I've heard described how gold is refined. Not a very comfortable process, but nevertheless, it's gold. Wouldn't you rather be gold than trash? Amen! "They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, "This is my people"; And each one will say, "The Lord is my God" (Zech 13:9). Jesus is Lord. The Father has anointed Him and given Him a name above every name. Every name. Every name, every "ism", every problem, every culture. There is only one culture, and that is the family of God.

BOOKS AVAILABLE:

MESSAGES TO THE CHURCH - *The writings of Herrick Holt*
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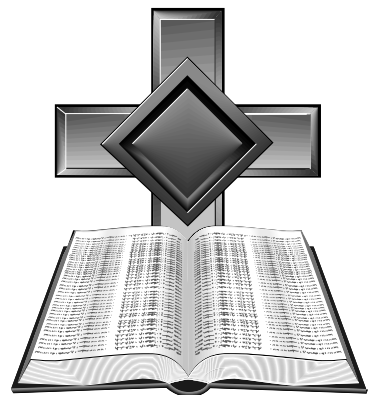
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