

MONDAY 07.27.26 - Luke 8:11-15

Luke’s rendition of this parable helps to understand the meaning. Seed dropped on the path has no importance to the hearer and means nothing. Seed on the rocks may represent a hearer saying a prayer at a campfire or evangelistic service, well-meaning but insincere and no change of heart occurred. God does not work there and there is no regeneration.

But the thorny growing seeds have fruit that does not ‘mature’ claims the ESV. So God has wrought change in the heart, which has shown the fruit of the spirit and changes of life, transformation or sanctification has begun; but it stalemates for the cares of the world. The best results come from consistent and persistent prayer, study of the Word and fellowship with believers. Much spiritual fruit appears and matures and is shared with others.

Hopefully, dear Reader, the last category represents your own relationship with our Savior.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 07.28.26 - James 1:2-4

It’s one thing to realize that diamonds are formed under intense pressure and gold is refined at nearly 2,000 degrees.

But my life was going just fine. Why are you allowing this to happen to me Lord? What good can possibly come from this?

Like Paul we plead, “remove this burden.” Don’t make me endure this.

James explains that trials are part of God’s refining work in our lives. “Consider it pure joy” doesn’t mean we are going to enjoy hardship. It describes the trust we have in God, knowing as He walks with us through the trials, our faith will be deepened, and we will be transformed as we develop Christlike character.

I’m reminded of a poster I once saw of a ship in a violent storm. The caption read, “A ship in a harbor is safe, but that’s not what ships were built for.”

God is preparing you for something great. Trust in Him.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 07.29.26 - 2 Peter 1:12-15

Jesus told Peter when and how he would die (John 21:18). According to tradition, Peter was crucified in Rome. Peter knew that he would soon die, so he wanted to take care of his spiritual responsibilities before it was too late. What did Peter want to accomplish? Peter desired to impress his readers’ minds with the Word of God so that they would never forget it! Peter knew that we have a tendency to get accustomed to truth and then to take it for granted. We forget what we ought to remember, and we remember what we ought to forget! The recipients of Peter’s letter knew the truth and were established in it, but that was no guarantee they would always remember the truth and apply it. The same is true of us today. We must stay in the Word and apply its teachings to our lives.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 07.30.26 - Ecclesiastes 12:13

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

So, in the end, when all is said and done, the thing that matters most is that we “Fear God and keep His commandments”.

This is not a matter of Salvation by works. Christ took care of our salvation on the cross, and if we have a personal relationship with Christ our salvation is a done deal. This is about experiencing our Christian life as God intends. Doing the things that are pleasing to God and good for us. Finding the comfort that comes from trusting in God in all situations and experiencing the peace and joy that God desires us to have no matter what we are currently going through. Truly believing that He is in complete control of every situation and resting in Him in the mist of the storms of life. If we follow the recipe God’s given us in Ecclesiastes 12:13 we will experience the true joy of our Christian live as God intended.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 07.31.26 - Psalm 111:10

What a way to end this Psalm! Throughout the preceding verses we see a pattern: declarations of God’s greatness followed by reasons to praise His goodness. Take a moment to look back and notice that rhythm.

Once you see it, verse 10 becomes even more powerful. “The fear of the Lord” can sound confusing—are we really supposed to fear God? Not in the sense of shrinking back in terror, but in the sense of standing in awe of His holiness, power, and majesty. He is completely above us, yet gracious toward us.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom because wisdom starts with seeing God rightly. He is God—and those words carry weight. When we live with that perspective, we grow in wisdom, live rightly, and respond with praise.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

E2 GROUP OPPORTUNITIES

SUNDAY MORNING LADIES' BIBLE STUDY

Began June 7th - 9:40am in Room 2

Ecclesiastes: "Finding Meaning When Life Feel Meaningless"

By Lydia Brownback.

This 10-week study helps women understand the themes of sin, vanity, enjoyment, and death, ultimately encouraging believers to follow the will of God for their lives, no matter their current circumstances.

SUNDAY MORNINGS - 9:40am

Kids	CHILDREN'S CHURCH (Ages 4 – 4th Grade) LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level NURSERY (through Age 3) *9:40AM ONLY LOCATION: Camp Shiloh on the Lower Level
Youth	E2 CLASS (5th – 12th Grade) LOCATION: Youth Activity Center (across street)
Adults	SUMMER QUARTER - Sunday Mornings LOCATION: B8-10 - June 7 th - August 30 th EXPLORE THE BIBLE: Joshua; Judges; Ruth By studying these books, we see that God is still at work, raising leaders from the most unlikely places. We are challenged to reserve our loyalty for our ultimate Leader. Teachers: Joel Day & Lane Kemler

SUNDAY EVENINGS - 6:00pm

Youth	ON SUMMER BREAK
Adults	Worship Center

MEN'S BREAKFAST

August 15th at 8:00am in the FAC
Sign up at the Welcome Center

TO SIGN UP OR REQUEST MORE INFORMATION FOR ANY OF THESE GROUPS OR CLASSES,
USE THE CONNECTION CARD IN THE BULLETIN. THANK YOU.

2 Peter 1:5-11
The Right Ingredients

With great power comes great responsibility.

God has given us His divine power so that we can experience His divine nature. In other words, we can become like Him. We can become holy like God is holy.

The R_____ for Christian Character (vv 5-7)

- Ingredient #1—
- Ingredient #2—
- Ingredient #3—
- Ingredient #4—
- Ingredient #5—
- Ingredient #6—
- Ingredient #7—
- Ingredient #8—

The R_____ of Christian Character (vv 8-11)

- F_____ (v 8)
- V_____ (v 9)
- S_____ (v 10)
- R_____ (v 11)

Peter is not teaching that you must possess the qualities delineated in verses 5-7 in order to go to heaven when you die. Salvation is by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). When you place your faith alone in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of your sins, you receive eternal life. You will go to heaven when you die. However, not all believers will receive a *rich* welcome into heaven. The condition of entering heaven is faith in Jesus. The condition of receiving a rich entrance into heaven is faith in Jesus plus Christian character.

E2 Edifying and Equipping Every Day

TAKING OUR NEXT STEP TOGETHER IN THE WORD



July 27 - July 31

INTRODUCTION:
Part of our purpose and strategy as a church is to Edify and Equip (E2) every believer. We desire to see every person take their next step with God, both individually as well as with families and small groups (E2 Communities). This devotional is to aid us in just that. We invite you to join us in daily devotion.

OVERVIEW:
Sunday, July 26th, we will hear a message from 2 Peter 1:5-11, "The Right Ingredients". Sunday, August 2nd, our message will be from 2 Peter 1:12-15, "Important Reminders".

KEY/MEMORY VERSE:
His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.
2 Peter 1:3-4