

MONDAY 10.6.25 - Luke 8:11-15

“This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rocky ground are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life’s worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

As I write this, we are literally hours away from having closed the Shiloh Bloomsburg Fair Stand for another year. We had the opportunity to sow many seeds as we talked with 2350 people over the week. I am sure that any of you who served at or prayed for the fair stand will agree with me when I say, “what a blessing to be used of God to be involved in the lives of so many people”. We had the opportunity to plant and water many seeds realizing it is God who will bring about the growth. However, we need to realize that our work is not finished. We need pray for those who heard the Gospel that they might come to a knowledge of Christ. Further, we need to continue to plant the seeds of the gospel with each opportunity that God provides for us to do so.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

TUESDAY 10.7.25 - 2 Peter 3:17-18

Mothers are full of cautionary words, such as don’t get into cars with strangers and look both ways before crossing the street; as well as many positive admonitions like eat your vegetables so that you grow up to be big and strong. God the Father, like a loving parent, also gives us cautions and admonitions so that we do not fall into lawlessness, but instead grow in our spiritual life with Jesus. We all know about the “big sins, but do we recognize the countless subtle ways that sin can insinuate itself into our lives?

For example, are we really glad when someone else is successful, or are we resentful and critical? Jealousy and bitterness are definitely not “fruits of the Spirit.” God tells us to be “on guard,” for Satan has many other sneaky strategies to undermine our walk. Stay close to the Lord through daily Bible reading and prayer.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

WEDNESDAY 10.8.25 - Ephesians 1:1-2

Spiritual darkness permeated ancient Ephesus. When Paul arrived there on his third missionary journey, he encountered demon possession, occult practices, and idol worship. However, through the power of the gospel, Paul was able to triumph over the spiritual darkness of the city. We should not be ashamed of the good news of Jesus because “it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes” (Rom. 1:16). *O God, may we not be intimidated by the darkness all around us. May we not believe the enemy’s lies about how invisible he is, but may we rather trust in you, the all-powerful God. Help us to walk in your strength, not in our weakness. Make us bold with truth, aggressive in our walk, generous with your light. May darkness retreat around us as we proclaim and live the gospel of your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.*

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

THURSDAY 10.9.25 - Isaiah 61:1

What anticipation was present in the ears of those hearing Isaiah’s prophecy read long ago. Today it speaks to us providing the same excitement. Then the listeners were looking for their Messiah. Today, Jesus as our savior provides all we need for every issue of life and trouble. In life we do have trouble, Jesus

advised. But we should be of good cheer, because he said, “I have overcome the world.”

Here we read that Jesus came to proclaim liberty to captives and to open prisons to those who are bound. Scripture teaches in Romans 6:15-23 that all people are slaves to sin, we are bound in the flesh by the curse of the world. That makes us prisoners in our own bodies, suffering in bad relationships and situations and subject to evil temptations. But in Jesus there is freedom. He provides what is needed to free us and open our prison doors. Ask and we shall receive!

SPACE FOR REFLECTION

FRIDAY 10.10.25 - Psalm 119:45

*I will walk about in freedom,
for I have sought out your precepts.*

It is interesting that this verse is part of the longest chapter in the Bible. The focus of the chapter underscores the importance of relying on God’s Word to guide our lives. We live in a world that rails against God’s rules and often views Him as some sort of Cosmic Killjoy. It is interesting to note how frequently testimonies include periods in people’s lives when they lived by their own rules and as a result, became “slaves to sin.”

It is not until we draw closer to Christ and follow His precepts that we are able to experience true freedom. Though it is counterintuitive to man’s reasoning, there is a freedom in obedience that provides assurance and peace as we truly live our life more abundantly. It is then that we develop a love for God’s commands and a commitment to follow them, so that we can truly live with confidence and freedom.

SPACE FOR REFLECTION
