

# Daily Reflections

The Divine Intervention

September 19, 2015

## *Scripture*

### **Luke 8:4-15**

When a large crowd gathered, with people from one town after another journeying to Jesus, he spoke in a parable.

“A sower went out to sow his seed.

And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path and was trampled, and the birds of the sky ate it up.

Some seed fell on rocky ground, and when it grew, it withered for lack of moisture.

Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew with it and choked it.

And some seed fell on good soil, and when it grew, it produced fruit a hundredfold.”

After saying this, he called out,

“Whoever has ears to hear ought to hear.”

Then his disciples asked him what the meaning of this parable might be.

He answered,

“Knowledge of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God has been granted to you;

but to the rest, they are made known through parables

so that they may look but not see, and hear but not understand.

“This is the meaning of the parable.

The seed is the word of God.

Those on the path are the ones who have heard,  
but the Devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts  
that they may not believe and be saved.

Those on rocky ground are the ones who, when they hear,  
receive the word with joy, but they have no root;  
they believe only for a time and fall away in time of temptation.

As for the seed that fell among thorns,  
they are the ones who have heard, but as they go along,  
they are choked by the anxieties and riches and pleasures of life,  
and they fail to produce mature fruit.

But as for the seed that fell on rich soil,  
they are the ones who, when they have heard the word,  
embrace it with a generous and good heart,  
and bear fruit through perseverance.”

## *Our Scripture Reflection*

"What kind of seeds are you sowing?" asks Jesus' parable. Seeds are so tiny yet when planted have the potential to produce significant plants and their fruit. Small acts of compassion have the power to transform lives, and therefore, build the Kingdom of God. Plant one today....

## *Food for your Journey*

It was a cold December night as Judy finished working late shift at the restaurant. The supervisor warned the employees not to walk through the parking lot alone, but she was in a hurry. Nearing the car, Judy felt rather than heard the presence rushing toward her. Before she could react, a rough hand grabbed her by the neck, jerking back hard. Both feet left the ground as she felt herself lifted high as if she were no heavier than a child's rag doll. Then there was the too-brief sensation of free-falling through the air as she was flung to the hard pavement. Dazed and in pain, Judy noticed the foul odor of stale cigarettes and cheap wine as the attacker began to loosen the strap of her purse. Before there was time to scream, she saw his evil scowl and the flash of his knife.

The next few hours were a blur in Judy's memory, but through the haze she remembered hearing a soft whisper, "It's okay. You are going to be all right!" As she regained consciousness, she noticed the hospital surroundings. A nurse was looking at several monitors. Then Judy realized the tubes and wires from the machines were attached to her. "What happened?"

The nurse looked her way, smiled and said, "You are a very fortunate young woman. You were beaten and stabbed repeatedly and apparently left for dead."

"How did I get here?" Judy asked.

The nurse smiled and replied, "You were rescued by our hospital custodian, Ed Harris. On the way home he saw you, called the rescue squad and stayed with you until just a few moments ago" ....

Your opportunities to help someone may or may not be this dramatic. It makes no difference. What matters is how you respond. Be alert for the opportunities God gives you.

—Larry Davies, "Christmas, a victim and opportunities," Sowing Seeds Devotion, December 14, 2000, sowseeds@nesbeonline.com. Reprinted with permission of Larry Davies.

## *Prayer from the Heart*

Dear Jesus, Fill my heart with love this day so that I may plant seeds of mercy and compassion towards others this day. Amen.



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