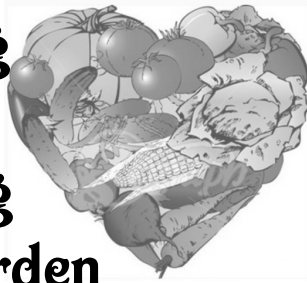




Preparing and Protecting My Heart Garden

Mathew 13:3-9



In 1 Corinthians 3:9 God likens my heart to a field: “Ye are God’s husbandry (tilled field).” God desires to bring a wonderful harvest if I am willing to humbly let Him prepare and work in the soil of my heart. Preparation takes time, work, and effort. In New England, rocks are abundant. Large and small, they must be carefully (and sometimes laboriously) removed before the ground can be worked. Preparing a field for planting can be very hard work. The weeds which grow so easily must be pulled out. Unseen roots can wreak havoc: “Looking diligently...lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble *you*, and thereby many be defiled” (*Heb. 12:15*).

May I learn to recognize small heart problems and eliminate them before they grow large and unwieldy. Weed seeds flow freely in the air; flowers and vegetables must be planted. I must identify seedlings to make sure they are not harmful weeds. Do I want this innocent-looking thought to flourish in my heart garden? With a ready heart, I can drink in the wonderful, pure seed of God’s Word, that it may take root and grow. God’s Word can then be like the seed in Matthew 13:8 which “fell into good ground and brought forth fruit.”

An important part of preparing a garden also involves protection. Am I careful to guard my heart? Do I keep it “with all diligence,” knowing that “out of it are the issues of life” (*Prov. 4:23*)? I need to maintain a fence around my heart, defending it from pests, weeds, and harmful relationships. A heart garden must be guarded from within and from without!

May I diligently do my part, realizing that only God can truly prepare and guard my heart field! God’s peace “shall keep (guard, protect) your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus” (*Phil. 4:7*).

~*George Zeller*: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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