

Tuesday, March 9

Today's Reading: Matthew Chapter 13: 1-30

Today's Devotional Message is by Pastor David Rispoli

"But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away."
Matthew 13:6

In the book, *"Oak: The Frame of Civilization"* author William Bryant Logan says, "If a tree puts on a lot of top growth and few roots, it is liable to be weak-wooded and short-lived. . . . If a tree puts down a great deal of roots and adds shoots more slowly, however, it is liable to be long-lived and more resistant to stress and strain." In the life of trees, one key to survival is having more roots than shoots. For the tree to grow strong it must have a great deal of roots. People and organizations can be like trees. The rise to prominence is exhilarating, but anything that puts up shoots faster than it puts down roots is fragile and in danger of breaking, falling, or dying.

Jesus used a similar analogy in His parable of the sower. People who hear the Word and receive it joyfully are like seed sown on stony places; they spring up quickly but endure only a short time because they have no roots. The end result in the parable is that the growth that was experienced withered away because they had no roots. Roots are not at all glamorous, but they are the source of strength. God invites us to grow our roots deep in him as we make worship a regular part of our lives, as we come to him constantly in prayer, as we read God's word daily and as we serve him faithfully. When we do this we are allowing the things of God to grow roots in the soil of our lives. So the question to ask yourself today is, How deep are your roots?

Prayer: Dear God, Thank you that you have provided the ways and means for us to grow our roots deep in you. Help us be more concerned about the roots in our lives than the shoots. We pray this in Jesus name, Amen.