

THE WALL BROKEN DOWN

Proverbs 24:30-34; 25:28; Matt. 25: 26
Romans 12:11; Hebrews 6:12; Prov.16:32

INTRODUCTION

The man simply went, "I passed by the field of the slothful," and he took in enough at a glance to understand its condition.

1. A mans character is impressed upon his work.
2. The neglected field, the ill-kept vineyard reveal the idle and foolish nature of their owner.

AS YOU PASS BY...THROUGH YOUR FIELD...YOU MUST LEAVE IT IN GOOD OR BAD CONDITION

1. AS YOU PASS BY CERTAIN FUNDAMENTALS WILL GOVERN.

1. You must see something. You cannot close your eyes.
2. You must believe something. What you see and hear and your attitude toward what you see and hear will determine what you believe.
3. You must be something. What you believe is going to determine what you will be. What you are will determine the condition of your field and vineyard.
4. You must do something. It might surprise you when I say that it is absolutely impossible to do nothing as we sometimes say, "I didn't do anything."
5. You must leave something.
 1. You may leave a field and vineyard all grown over with nettles and thorns and the walls broken down, He, that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls. Proverbs 25:28
 - (1) An uncultivated field all grown over with weeds, thorns and nettles, the walls (fences) all broken down is a sad sight to look upon.
 - (2) A house, the roof caving in, the windows out, falling down and trembling on its foundation with every breeze that blows is a sad sight.
 - (3) SADDER THAN ALL OF THIS IS: The man broken down; weeds and nettles are the scenes which result from his life, the walls of the city of his mind are broken down. There is no restraint on his passions, desires, and affections.
 - A. He has no defence when temptation assaults him. He is carried away to destruction
 - B. Because he is without the wall of silence (it is broken down) the city of his mind is open to the attacks of the enemy, and he gets the mastery of it without any trouble.

LESSONS OF THE SCENE BEFORE US: In this picture we are taught that:

1. If we will not have flowers and fruits, we certainly will have thorn, briars and nettles.
2. We are taught that no man can hide the results of neglect.
3. The scene shows how impossible it is to be right in some particulars and to be grievously wrong in others. NOTE: JAMES 2:10
 1. The legal right of the slothful man to possess the field would not be disputed.
 2. It is not enough to possess only, we must take care of and even increase that which we do possess. Matt. 25:14-30
4. The scene teaches that if we keep our eyes open we may see and learn moral lessons everywhere. I LOOKED UPON IT AND RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS! Two certainties we learn:
 1. That the finest possessions may be wasted: Property, Talent, Influence, Opportunity.
 2. That wickedness (slothfulness, carelessness) always move in the direction of destruction

THE GARDEN, FIELD, OR VINEYARD WE HAVE. EACH OF US HAS ONE AND ONLY ONE

1. God has given us this garden. We are responsible for its keeping.
2. Our garden may be grown over with thorns, nettles, and the wall broken down. ~~We may have been planting there:~~
 1. Man may have been planting the weeds of weak self-indulgence.
 2. As men pass by this garden they see the weeds of transgression, untruthfulness, the thorns of intemperance. Through neglect of our garden, briars of ignorance, folly and sin will be.
 3. THE BITTER WEED OF OZONA, TEXAS: Power to kill the cows, sheep, goats that eat it. Bitterness will kill the soul. Heb. 12:15

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THE GARDEN, FIELD, OR VINEYARD WE HAVE. EACH OF US HAS ONE AND ONLY ONE: Continued;

3. Our garden may be filled with beautiful flowers of Christian reverence and love.

1. We have a garden more precious than many thousands of acres of rich fertile soil. Our garden is that which no riches can buy: OUR OWN SELVES; OUR OWN HUMAN SPIRIT.

2. God has charged us to cultivate that garden, to weed it of error and prejudice, of folly, of passion of heart and mind. AND WE ARE CHARGED TO PLANT THERE:

(1) The flower of truth. Proverbs 23:23; But the truth and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

Eph. 4:15; But speaking (holding) the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things. 1 John

(2) The flower of love. Beloved if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. 4:19

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 1 John 4:8

We love him, because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one for another.

(3) The flower of kindness. And walk in love, as Christ hath also loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. Ephesians 5:2

(3) The flower of kindness. THE POWER OF KINDESS:

A. Love suffereth long and is kind. 1 Cor. 13: 4

B. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven us. Ephesians 4:32

C. Put on therefore as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies (Tenderheartedness) kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; 13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrell against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. 14. And above all these things put on charity (love) , which is the bond of perfectness.

(4) And beside this, giving all diligence, add to (supply in) your faith the following flowers: Virtue, Knowledge, Temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity-love. 2 Peter 1:5-7

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