



The Southeast Sower

Southeast Church of Christ

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SOMEONE HAS PLANS FOR YOU

by
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Agents, double agents, are the stuff of which movies are made. These days, most countries have spies. Each much learn the secret plans of the other to gain the advantage. The devil also has plans for each of us. The church at Corinth was warned about his schemes and devices (2 Cor. 2:11). To remain ignorant of the devil's plans for us is to risk his taking advantage over us (1 Pet. 5:8).

In Luke 8:4-15, Jesus compares preaching the word to sowing seed. In this parable we see the devil's plans for each individual. As a farmer's seed falls among the different types of soil, so the preacher's word falls among different types of people or hearts or minds.

In this passage we learn that the "seed" is the word of God (v. 11). That word is powerful and it will produce (Rom. 1:16). Anytime God's word is heard the devil mobilizes his forces. According to Jesus, the devil's plan is simple. We see from a study of his parable that it is threefold.

STAY OUT: (Luke 8:12)

Wherever God's word is taught, the great work of

redemption goes forward. As people obey the gospel they are added to the body of Christ, the church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13). All spiritual blessings are in Christ (Eph. 1:3), and those blessed are His people. Take note: they are in Christ, saved, in the body or church.

Satan wants you to stay out of his body. Dark forces move once you hear the gospel call. Satan leads those forces. After all, he is the "wicked one." Distractions come from all sides, like "birds" swooping down to gobble up the exposed seed that finds its way to the "wayside" soil. Distractions such as, prejudice, shut or stubborn mind, school, work, children, parents, retirement, pleasures of sin (Heb. 11:25), a more "convenient season" (Acts 24:24, 25), and false teachers (2 Cor. 11:13-15) are just some of the things that the devil uses to keep one from obeying the gospel and entering the kingdom of God.

DROP OUT: (Luke 8:13)

The first year of a baby's life is somewhat scary. They are weak, susceptible to illness, injury, and are in need of constant vigilance and care. Spiritually, Christians are "newborn babes" (Jn. 3:3-5; 1 Pet. 2:2). Old friends, old sins, call for a new Christian to come back to the old ways. He or she may question their ability to hold out. They may

The Southeast

Church of Christ meets at:

35 Walnut Court

Mogadore, OH 44260

Phone: 330.628.7432

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study: 10:00 am

Worship: 10:50 am

6:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 pm

even begin to doubt their desire to hold on. Irregular attendance, incomplete fellowship will come and are usually the first signs of apostasy because they have no firm root.

A Christian cannot go it alone any more than a single sheep away from the flock and its shepherd can make it. Christians need the assemblies and the fellowship of brethren (Heb. 10:24, 25). Christians also need social contact with one another (Acts 2:46). (Cf. Heb. 3:12, 13).

Some do not hang in there but drop out and fall away.

When temptation comes they have no support, they have no root, no depth of faith, no character, no commitment, and apparently did not count the cost of discipleship. In most cases of this nature, the individual is not fully converted to Christ, and the devil takes full advantage of his or her state. Newborn Christians need to sink their roots deeply in Christ (Col. 2:6, 7).

DIE OUT: (Luke 8:14)

Although many of those who have no root drop out, still others remain in local churches of the Lord. Satan has plans for them and that is simply “die out.” If the devil cannot persuade you to stay out or drop out he will be just as happy to see you die out. He plants “thorns” along your way. He wants you dead spiritually, and whether you die quickly or slowly, it really doesn’t matter to him, just so you die! He wants you to lose faith in the power of the gospel, prayer, and the concern of God. He will turn your eyes toward the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and the pride of life (1 Jn. 2:15, 16). He causes you to forget that the world passes away, and the lust thereof, and that, he that does the will of God abides forever (1 Jn. 2:17). Satan would like for you to try to serve two masters. However, Jesus said that it cannot be done (Matt. 6:19-24).

It doesn’t always have to be pleasure or riches that cause us to die spiritually. Sometimes it can just be the “cares” of this world. Often, the simple task of “making a

living” can become a problem for us spiritually. You see, it doesn’t matter to Satan how he gets you, just so in the end he has you.

These are the devil’s plans for you, but God has plans for you also, and we need to be thankful for that. In His parable, Jesus talked about the “good ground” that produced much fruit. This is God’s simple plan. He wants you to come among His people, to stay among His people, to have a rich and fruitful life (spiritually), and in the end, everlasting life (Mk. 10:30). However, as Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, “few there be that find it.” The only question that remains is this: “Whose plan will you follow?”

FOUNDATIONS

Every contractor would certainly agree that a good foundation is an absolute must in building a house. Such an undertaking requires much forethought and planning in many key areas for the process to be successful.

- Selecting a site with a solid base on higher ground
- Pouring strong footers with reinforced concrete
- Good concrete blocks with well mixed mortar
- Making each row straight and level, and each corner square
- Using sealant on the block walls, installing proper French drains, backfilling appropriately with gravel, and sloping the topsoil away from the foundation.

Why must this detailed process take place? To protect the foundation of the house against its number one enemy – water. To protect against either the rush of an overwhelming flood, or more likely, a slow, steady seeping which could initially go unnoticed but cause much destruction later on.

Ask any homeowner who has had foundation problems and they will agree. Water has an uncanny way of finding a way into the foundation, causing leaks, cracked or bowed walls, and if unchecked, permanent damage if not total collapse of the house.

Just as the number one enemy of the structural foundation of our earthly homes is water, the number one enemy of the spiritual foundation of our lives is sin. Sin can either overwhelm us during a sudden rush of temptation or tribulation, or in an uncanny way, gradually seep unchecked into our spiritual foundation causing much destruction.

Jesus Christ, the master builder and chief corner stone (Eph.2:20), emphasized the wisdom in building our lives on the proper spiritual foundation (Matt. 7:24-27). We must build our lives on Christ, the Solid Rock, to withstand not only the flood of sin, but also the insidious, stealthy nature of it.

Let us remember that we are all building our lives on some sort of foundation. Many build on the wrong foundation (1 Cor. 3:11) or allow their once strong one to be eroded. What is your foundation and how are you building it? - Jeff Haught