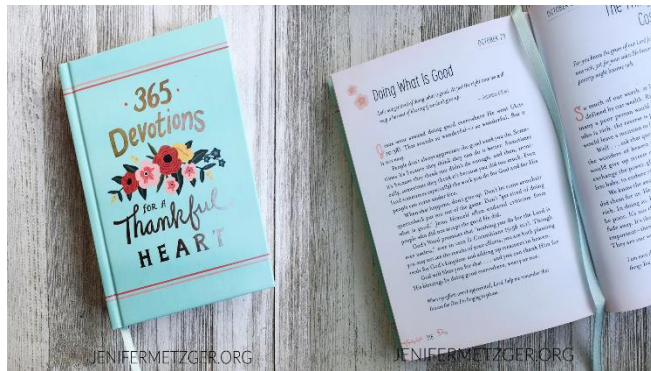


## Reflection Psalm 119:102-112 & Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23



From January this year, I've chosen a book to read each day which is called, "365 devotions for a thankful heart".

This is my personal devotion time with God, so I open the book and do one page of reading each day in the

morning. It takes only about 5 -10 minutes; it is a good way to start a new day with the words of God.

In this time of daily devotion offers me an encouragement and helps me to focus on what God is accomplishing in and through us.

With these uplifting devotions, I open my eyes to recognize all the ways God is providing his love and guidance and his presence to us each day and I feel this spiritual growth in me with so much gratitude.

I know some of you also do the daily devotion, read Christian books or prayers. Some of you listen to the daily devotion on the radio or listen to the hymns. Some of you may also spend quite time with God, praying, walking, or write a journal. We do this in many different ways to spend time with God and get closer to God and connected with God.

But honestly, you know, this daily devotion time, sometimes, I can't tune into God. Sometimes it's hard to understand what it's saying.

Sometimes it's hard to go into deep reflection.

Sometimes I forget quickly what I've read in the morning.

Or I even forget to do this some days.

Depending on my situation, depending on my time, and what I concern or worry about each day, my attitude towards how I respond to God's words are different. I know God is giving us the spiritual food (each day), but sometimes I am not ready to receive it or take it.



Today's passage from Matthew, Jesus talks about a parable of the sower and the seed. This parable is very well-known. A farmer goes out to sow the seeds in his field.

The seeds scatter everywhere.

Some fall on the path, some fall on the rocky places, and some fall on the thorns. And people know and understand that some places are not good places to grow and produce the fruit, but some of the seeds falls on "Good soil, and when they grow to maturity, they produce fruit.

When we hear this parable, what do you think? What do you hear?

I think, more often, it draws us to examine what kind of soil we are. We think about who I am.

But today, we may think about this parable from different perspective.

This parable is not about the dirt or the soil, it is about kingdom of God.

I don't think Jesus is using this parable to urge us to be just good soil.

Because we are not just one type of soil. We are all four.

We know the beaten path of life. We've experienced the rocky patches of life.

We have been ripped by and scratched by the thorns of life.

The purpose of this parable is; Jesus uses this to tell us the Kingdom of God is given to us. In (Matthew) chapter 13, it contains seven parables to describe about the Kingdom of God and the parable of the sower is one of them.

Most people in Jesus' times, they couldn't read the scripture. They could not understand what it said. So Jesus told these stories to help them to understand about the Kingdom of God and told them how God's words were being planted like a seed within us to bring us new life.

In this story, Seeds and the Sower. God is the sower who sows the same seeds in all four soils. The sower does it with no hesitation and without any care of where the seeds will land. It does not matter to the sower whether the seed lands on the pathway, rocky ground, amongst the thorns or in rich soil.

God does not discriminate between good soil and bad soil.

No soil is unworthy to God. God throws the seed (of the Kingdom) everywhere. It goes out into the whole world, to transform any who are willing to accept it.

In the end, I think this parable is not about the quality of the soil, it is about the in breaking of the Kingdom of God in our lives and in the lives of those around us.

A Kingdom is sown by the seeds that Jesus planted, through time and time again during his ministry here on earth.

And by his word and by his actions, He has shown us that His Kingdom of God embraces all people.



It is a Kingdom, where the seeds the sower sows, brings restoration, healing, forgiveness, and new life.

It is a Kingdom where those who are lame can walk, those who are cast aside are welcome, and those

who see themselves as unworthy, irrelevant, or undeserving are received with open arms.

It is a Kingdom where God tells us, “you are my beautiful and worthy child, and you are deserving of my love”.

Sometimes we don't believe what we hear. Sometimes we don't believe the seeds of good news and life that God sows in us. Sometimes the pathway, rocky grounds and the weeds of life that surround us, try to destroy and take away the seed of life that God sows in us.

But God keeps sowing those seeds, even in the most unexpected places.

Even on soil that is so compacted together and hardened;

God is sowing the seeds.

Seeds here. Seeds there.

Seeds everywhere. Every part of your life is being sown with the seeds of God's love and acceptance.

And you know what happens to the seeds?

It will grow in our hearts.

God continually sows his seeds no matter what kind of soil you may find yourself in.

Sooner or later, if we will let them, those seeds will grow and sprout life, forgiveness, healing, encouragement, love and acceptance in our lives, and in the lives of others.

Hear then, the parable of the sower and embrace the seeds God sows your way.