

still waters

home church studies

Psalm 45.10-17

[Worship]

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. 106 I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. 107 I am severely afflicted; give me life, O LORD, according to your word. 108 Accept my offerings of praise, O LORD, and teach me your ordinances. 109 I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. 110 The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. 111 Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart. 112 I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

Consider:

[Think & Pray...]

In Jesus' time a yield of seven-and-a-half-fold was an average harvest. A tenfold yield was good. How are we to interpret, then, the harvest from the seeds sown on good soil—a hundredfold, sixty, and thirty?

The sequence of the three failures in the parable sets the stage for a shattering of expectations. The eaten, withered, and choked examples give way to the overwhelming yield of the seeds sown on good ground. The reality of God shatters anything we can expect or even hope for.

When the conclusion of this parable has struck home, it seems I have experienced only the seeds eaten, withered, and choked. Matthew's allegorical interpretation of the failures fits my life only too well. I don't need such



examples! But what can I possibly make of a hundredfold harvest? What on earth is Jesus talking about?

[The Scripture]

Romans 8.1-11

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. 3 For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, 4 so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. 5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. 6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. 9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.