

Clay's Corner

I heard a very pointed and direct question the other day, "If Jesus planted a seed in you, would it grow?"

*"Behold, the sower went out to sow; ... " - Matthew 13:3, NASB
Read Matthew 13:3-9 and 13:18-23.*

Jesus used a common image—a freshly prepared field, planting time, and a sower that scattered seed broadcast style. Seed went everywhere! Even with good preparation, not all the soil was desirable soil.

First, note four types of soil are mentioned. One was so hard the seed could not penetrate it. One had more rocks than soil. One was so full of competing thorns that the seeds' plants were choked out of existence. Only one was good soil that produced.

Note that one would not allow a root system. One had too little soil to support the plant. One contained too much competition. Even the good soil produced different yields. There was an impenetrable problem, a water/moisture problem, a competition problem, and no problem.

The first may not have been a soil problem—the soil was just packed. The second had too little soil, but the soil it had was okay—the seed sprouted! The third had no soil problem at all! Its problem was above the soil! The good soil was productive because it was not packed, was not rocky, and was not competing. If the packed soil was loosened, the rocky soil had the rocks removed, and the thorny soil removed the competition, all the soils might have been good soils capable of producing.

Second, note that not all soils in the good soil were equal in productivity. The good news—serving Jesus Christ is not a competition! God only expects of you what you are capable of doing! He expects you to do what you can do! Be responsible! Do something, but do not worry about what you cannot do!

The question is, "What kind of soil are you?"

Are you so packed God cannot "get through" to you? Are you too shallow to support life in Christ? Is there so much competition in your life you choke out righteousness? Or, do you responsibly do what you are able to do to support God's purposes in Christ? Are you willing to loosen the soil, dig out the rocks, and kill the competition to be productive soil? What does your life grow?

Blessings!

PRAYER LIST

- **Monty Allen** (Susan Barnick's friend's brother—cancer)
- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Terry Boaz** (Haley Ratliff's step-mother—recovering from surgery, Hendrick League House, Abilene)
- **Sonny Bransom** (recovering from hip replacement)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Joyce Faires** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Lance Fougerat**
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Eddie Hunt** (Debbie Jalufka's father—Alzheimer's)
- **Sandra Jetton** (health)
- **John Jobe** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health, stroke)
- **Debbie Jalufka** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health)
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Katy and Family** (Kelly Mason's friends—Katy's sister injured in motorcycle accident)
- **Jason, Lizzie and Luke Klinger** (Sarah Weaver's cousins—Luke, 4 mos old, cancer)
- **Evlynn Lawrence** (Sweeneys' granddaughter)
- **Justen Lawrence, and Stacia and Phil, and family**
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Sanford Mason** (Ralph's brother—heart health)
- **Emory Meier** (Cheryl Pitts's father—health)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **Mason Ratliff** (recovering from surgery)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Paris, Lexus & Maelyn Robertson** (Johnsons' friends—Maelyn born 10 weeks premature)
- **Alex and Tiffany Rodriguez** (Chestly Gobar's friends—Alex suffered stroke)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Sharon Saint** (Zach Babb's mother—recovering from surgeries)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Cheryl Pitts requests prayers for her friend **Cheryl Anstead**, of La Grange. Cheryl is the single-mother of four children and has suffered through cancer twice. Her 19-year-old son, **Stormy**, was in a head-on auto collision and suffered massive damage to his pelvis, having to have surgery on both hips. Stormy is still unconscious, for no apparent medical reason according to his test results.

Sonny Bransom moved to in-patient rehab, where he will be for 2-3 weeks. He had one hip replaced and will still need to have his knee replaced once he recovers from this surgery.

Debbie Faires is travelling to help care for her mother, **Dixie**, on the weekends. Dixie has Alzheimer's which has progressed so that she can no longer take care of herself.

Debbie Jalufka requests prayers for her father, **Eddie Hunt**. Eddie was diagnosed this summer with Alzheimer's, which is now in Stage 6 (of 7).

Please continue to keep **Justen Lawrence, and Stacia and Phil and all their family** in your prayers.

Mason Ratliff is feeling better and was able to return to school this week. He did half-days on Monday and Tuesday and returned to full days on Wednesday!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

5th Sunday Fellowship

Please join us **tonight 5 p.m.** at the Linds (1001 S Lancaster, Moulton) for our 5th Sunday Fellowship meal. Please bring corn bread, drinks, desserts or sides to compliment beef stew. **Transportation will leave from the building at 4:30 p.m.**

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class will meet on **Tuesday at 10 a.m.** at the building. Our first series will be the *War Room* Bible Study, which includes five lessons on the topics of Lukewarmness, Accountability, Gospel & Grace, Spiritual Warfare, and Prayer.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us **this Wednesday at 5:15 p.m.** for dinner in the annex. This week's entrée is ground beef and vegetable soup. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides or desserts to share, but everyone is invited! If you cannot bring a dish, please do not let that be a deterrence to joining us for dinner. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Youth & Family Super Bowl Party

Youth and family, make plans to attend our Super Bowl Party **next Sunday, Feb. 7**, at the Chrismons at **5 p.m.** Please bring chips, dip, cookies, or other snacks, desserts and finger foods to share! Transportation from the building will be available.

Youth Sunday: Valentine's Luncheon

The youth will serve Valentine's lunch on **Sunday, Feb. 14**. Please sign up in the foyer to assist with this event.

Tuesday Morning Men's Meeting

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at 6:20 a.m. for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

New Directories Available

Hard copies of the new directory are now available. Be sure to pick up your copy from the table in the foyer.

YOUTH ZONE

CONGRATULATIONS TO COLE HENDERSHOT WHO PLACED 8TH IN HIS DIVISION AT THE FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW!

MONDAY, FEB. 1

GIRLS BASKETBALL

SHINER JR HIGH @ FLATONIA, 5:30 P.M.

THURSDAY, FEB. 4

BOYS BASKETBALL

GONZALES 8TH "B" @ YOAKUM, 6:30 P.M.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

GONZALES 7TH "B" V. YOAKUM, 5 P.M.

GONZALES 7TH "A" V. YOAKUM, 6 P.M.



FRIDAY, FEB. 5

BOYS BASKETBALL

GONZALES VARSITY V. NAVARRO, 7:30 P.M.

Jacy Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Girls Basketball
Fernando Garcia—Gonzales 8th Boys Basketball

Tyler Hendershot—Gonzales Varsity Boys Basketball
Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales 7th Girls Basketball