

September 13, 2015

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE – Luke 8

Initially, they appear to grow quicker because, with less soil to establish a root system, they expend their energy in producing the stem and leaves. When the sun grows hot (representing the light of God's truth exposing them, or trials and persecution testing them), however, the sprouts wither away, the result of inadequate root systems.

The Word comes to the person but it does not have a lasting impact:

No roots

Looking for an EMOTIONAL BUMP

- They hear the Word of God and they accept it with joy
- But they don't do anything more with it after they leave the sanctuary
- Jesus says, "They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away." (v.13)

When people are struggling with a decision or situation in their life and they're struggling:

- My faith seems dry
- Church is no longer meeting their needs
- I feel empty inside
- Where is God?

I'll ask, "How's our walk with God?"

- What are thinking about? (think – head)
- What can you trust God about? (trust – heart)
- Why aren't you doing it? (try – hands)

If you are only fed or expect to be fed only on Sunday mornings, you will stare spiritually.

- You cannot feed your sinful nature six days a week and expect to hear from God and receive all you need from a 35 minute sermon.
- You might feel emotionally uplifted for awhile because God's Word is good every time you hear it, but you cannot live without getting rooted.
- You cannot have only head knowledge and emotional lifts, you must have a heart that is fertile and deep. Not shallow and rocky under the surface.

?When you hear God's offer of mercy, how do you respond?

God's truth offers peace of mind, pardon from sin, and salvation with eternal life.

Since they think they are forgiven, their anxieties seem to disappear, and they feel a temporary peace and happiness.

However, they have no foundation for permanent joy.

Their gladness soon subsides, as does their desire to live righteously.

Without appreciation for Christ's sacrifice and conviction to resist temptation, trial and persecution causes them to fall away.

All they ever had was mere excited human emotion, an insufficient motivation to sustain a person throughout the long process of conversion.