*Tuesday, March 20, 2012*

**Slice of Life**

John 21:15-17 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. (16) He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (17) He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. (KJV)

Our Lord asks an interesting question to Peter in verse 15, asking if his love for Him exceeds the other disciples. The Lord knowing the thoughts and intents of the heart was encouraging Peter to stay the course despite sufferings that were about to take place.

Mark 4:3-6 Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow: (4) And it came to pass, as he sowed, some fell by the way side, and the fowls of the air came and devoured it up. (5) And some fell on stony ground, where it had not much earth; and immediately it sprang up, because it had no depth of earth: (6) But when the sun was up, it was scorched; and because it had no root, it withered away. (KJV)

There is only One true sower who can sow the Word and bring forth a Spiritual crop. As we see, sometimes the Word does not always take root in people because they allow the carnal to have more of an influence on them than the Spiritual.

Mark 4:7-9 And some fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up, and choked it, and it yielded no fruit. (8) And other fell on good ground, and did yield fruit that sprang up and increased; and brought forth, some thirty, and some sixty, and some an hundred. (9) And he said unto them, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear. (KJV)

Actually another way of looking at verse 8 is similar to what we started out with today, lambs, sheep, and sheep again referring to maturity, 30, 60, and 100. Are you in for the long haul concerning salvation; and are you growing and maturing daily, or has some foul spirit of the air swooped down and stole that seed that was planted?

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. (2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)

If you do a study of the Old Testament you will see that one of the biggest downfalls of God’s chosen people would take place when they intermingled with those outside, and like the Word says, a little leaven would get in and leaven or infect the whole lump. Many begin with God in the Spirit but do not bring forth fruit to maturity, because they try to perfect their walk according to the flesh again. Good, some 30, acceptable some 60, and perfect referring to hundredfold.

Ephesians 4:14-15 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: (KJV)

God is love; therefore His people will be motivated by a love for Him and His people, and not for things of this life. It is time to grow up and mature in the things of God by putting away the childish things of man and their limited carnal interpretations of His Word.