

## How is YOUR Soil?

My Fellow Legionnaires,

With our upcoming Washington Convention and Training, I wanted to share with you something I'd like to meditate upon. Please bear with me and consider if these words have meaning to you as they do to me. In the thirteenth chapter of Matthew, we read:

*"<sup>1</sup> That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. <sup>2</sup> And great crowds gathered around Him, so He got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. <sup>3</sup> And He told them many things in parables, saying: "A Sower went out to sow, <sup>4</sup> And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and birds came and devoured them. <sup>5</sup> Other seeds fell on rock ground, where they did not have much soil, had and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, <sup>6</sup> but when the sun rose they scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. <sup>7</sup> Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. <sup>8</sup> Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. <sup>9</sup> He who has ears, let him hear. . . .*

*<sup>18</sup> Hear then the parable of the Sower: <sup>19</sup> Anyone who hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil ones comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. <sup>20</sup> As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, <sup>21</sup> yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. <sup>22</sup> As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but cares of the world and deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. <sup>23</sup> As for what is sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and another thirty."*

I fully realize that here Jesus is talking about the word of God, but does this not ALSO apply to us, as Legionnaires, where we have our Constitution, By-Laws, 4-Pillars, and our overall Mission. Just as with the Ten Commandments, the words that our American Legion forefathers have given us in those areas are NOT constraints, but pathways to successfully working with each other toward a common goal of success in helping Veterans and their families.

Do we need more "Good Soil", and less "Hardened Soil", "Thorns", or "Evil" in our midst"? We have an opportunity this coming week at our Convention to grab hold of some "MiracleGrow", open not only our ears but also our hearts and minds and listen to learn what our National Team has for us to make some great "Soil", to leave the mistakes behind us, be successful, and most certainly – TO BE "For God and Country" – Because without

Him, we will NOT have a country of Freedom and all the Blessings He has bestowed upon us. It'll be a lot of work, but TOGETHER, with GOD, WE CAN DO IT!

Hope to see you ALL there!

Humbly, I remain,

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