

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"



(Luke 10:38-42; Mat 6:19-34; 13:19-23)

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"



**We
recognize
the negative
impacts of
distractions
in most
every area
of life.**

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

Luke 10:38–42 (NKJV)

³⁸ Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. ³⁹ And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." ⁴¹ And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. ⁴² But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her."

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"



ARE WE ALLOWING THE
DEVIL TO USE WORLDLY
AND MATERIAL THINGS TO
DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN
US AND THE LORD?

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"



Could it be we
are so busy
*“here and
there”* that we
do not TAKE the
time & effort
needed for
genuine
spiritual growth?

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The Pew Research Center

AUGUST 23, 2016

Choosing a New Church or House of Worship

“49% of American adults now attend religious services just a few times a year, rarely or never. ... A substantial proportion (22% of all U.S. adults) say they now go to religious services less often than they did at another point during adulthood.”

“... among those whose attendance has waned, the most commonly offered reasons have to do with practical concerns, including many who say they are too busy to attend ...”

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

IS THE DEVIL DRIVING A WEDGE BETWEEN YOU AND THE LORD?



Matthew 13:22 (NKJV)

22 Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

MISPLACED VALUES / BLURRED FOCUS / DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Placing Too Much Value
On Temporal Things?

Putting Too Much Effort
Into Temporal Things?

Distracted From What Is
Truly Valuable / Eternal

Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, ...; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ... ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

MISPLACED VALUES / BLURRED FOCUS / DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Our Values?

Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, ...; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, ... ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

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MISPLACED VALUES / BLURRED FOCUS / DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Loyalty?

Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)
22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. ... 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

MISPLACED VALUES / BLURRED FOCUS / DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Loyalty?

- Can easily become disordered
- When ask – we will probably answer correctly
- Is knowledge and good intentions enough?
- Where do our priorities really lie?

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

MISPLACED VALUES / BLURRED FOCUS / DIVIDED LOYALTIES



Matthew 19:16-22

What the rich young ruler said about his values indicated one thing, his actions indicated another.

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

MISPLACED VALUES / BLURRED FOCUS / DIVIDED LOYALTIES



- Our minds should be set upon spiritual things (Ps 1:2; Col. 3:1,2; Phili. 4:8; Rom 8:5-9; 12:1,2)
- Our thoughts, even when about temporal things, should be motivated by our spiritual values & goals! (Heb 12:1-3)

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

What Do We Think About?



- Our values, focus, and loyalties will affect our response to temptation (Psalm 1:2; 37:31; 119:11)
- Our thoughts produce our words & deeds - as we think, so we are (Prov 23:7)
- If our thoughts are distracted by temporal things we will not bear spiritual fruit to perfection (Mat 13:22)

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

What Do We Talk About Most?



- The conversations we engage in arise quite naturally out of the things that are on our minds - (Mat 15:18; 12:37; Acts 4:20; 17:16,17)
 - To what do our conversations more naturally, and enthusiastically gravitate?
 - Even when speaking of temporal things - if our focus is spiritual, we will speak with a spiritual end in mind! - (parables of Jesus, Jesus @ Jacob's well, John 4 - etc.)

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How Do We Spend Our Time?



- What will the spiritually minded person spend most of his time doing? (Ps. 1:1,2; 119:97; Acts 2:42-46; 5:42; 17:11; Rom 13:11-14; 1 Thes 5:17)
- The way we spend our spare time speaks loudly regarding our values, focus & who we are really serving! (Eph 5:15,16)

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

How Do We Spend Our Money?



- Being in this world requires we use our resources for some material things (Mat 14:15; 22:21)
- Do we find ourselves giving to the Lord's work FIRST and our wants with what is left? (Mal. 1:6-8; 3:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor. 8:1-5)

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

How Do We Spend Our Money?



- How much of our money do we spend on things that will help us grow spiritually?
- Do we use our money to help others in need? (2 Cor 8,9)
- We can allow our material resources, or the means used to obtain them, to be a distraction to bearing fruit (Mat 13:22; 1 Tim 6:10)

“FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT”

Matthew 13:19–23 (NKJV)

¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside. ²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles. ²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. ²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”

"FRUIT OF THE DISTRACTED SAINT"

Four Types of Hearts

Matthew 13:19–23 (NKJV)

Wayside ...

Thin Soil ...

Thorny Ground ...

Good Ground ...

- The condition of our hearts determines how we hear.
- How we hear determines the level of our faith, commitment & perseverance.
- The level of our faith, commitment & perseverance will determine the type of fruit we bear!

“FRUIT OF THE FOCUSED SAINT”

“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” — Matthew 13:23



- Noble & honest (Acts 17:11,12)
- Receives w/ meekness (Jam 1:21)
- Willing to change (Ac 19:18-20; Jam. 1:25)
- Bears fruit (Gal. 5:22,23; 1 Thes 1:8-10)
- A heart like the one described in Psalm 1:1-3 and Psalm 119:97-104.

“FRUIT OF THE FOCUSED SAINT”

“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” — Matthew 13:23



Psalm 1:2–3 (NKJV)

² But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night. ³ He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

“FRUIT OF THE FOCUSED SAINT”

“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” — Matthew 13:23



Psalm 119:97–104 (NKJV)

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love Your law! It *is* my meditation all the day. ⁹⁸ You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; For they *are* ever with me. ⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, For Your testimonies *are* my meditation. ¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the ancients, Because I keep Your precepts.

“FRUIT OF THE FOCUSED SAINT”

“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” — Matthew 13:23



Psalm 119:97–104 (NKJV)

¹⁰¹ I have restrained my feet from every evil way,
That I may keep Your word. ¹⁰² I have not departed
from Your judgments, For You Yourself have
taught me. ¹⁰³ How sweet are Your words to my
taste, *Sweeter* than honey to my mouth! ¹⁰⁴
Through Your precepts I get understanding;
Therefore I hate every false way.

“FRUIT OF THE FOCUSED SAINT”

“But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” — Matthew 13:23



- Grows in faith & knowledge (Acts 17:11,12; Rom 10:17; 2 Pet 3:18)
- Practical holiness (Rom 6:22; 12:1-2; Phili 1:11; Col. 1:10)
- Fruit of the Spirit / Christ-like character (Gal 5:22,23)
- Win souls (Acts 8:4; 1 Thes 1:8)

"FRUIT OF THE FOCUSED SAINT"

**Places Proper
Value On Spiritual
Things?
Matthew 6:19-33**

Right treasure - Right Focus -
Undivided Heart - Kingdom TRULY First

**Puts ALL Effort Into
Spiritual Things?
2 Peter 1:5-11**

Gives All Diligence To Add To Faith,
Virtue, Knowledge, Self Control, Patience,
Godliness, Brotherly Kindness, Love ...

**Focussed On Being
Who God Wants Us
To Be
Galatians 5:22,23**

The fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace,
longsuffering, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

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Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Loyalty?

Could it be we are so busy "here and there" that we do not TAKE the time & effort needed to learn the truth & genuinely grow spiritually?

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Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Loyalty?

Have you allowed your faith & service to God to be choked by the cares of this life - ceasing to bear fruit?

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MISPLACED VALUES / BLURRED FOCUS / DIVIDED LOYALTIES

Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Loyalty?

Are you IN CHRIST? –

Have you by faith repented –
confessed – been baptized?
(Mark 16:16; Rom. 10:9,10; Acts
2:38; Rom. 6:3-6; Gal. 3:26,27)

We never stay the same –
we will either grow spiritually
– or we will spiritually die!

“Fruit of The Distracted Saint”



(Luke 10:38-42; Mat 6:19-34; 13:19-23)

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MATTHEW 19:16-22 (NKJV)

¹⁶ Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” ¹⁷ So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one *is* good but One, *that is*, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.” ¹⁸ He said to Him, “Which ones?” Jesus said, “ ‘*You shall not murder,*’ ‘*You shall not commit adultery,*’ ‘*You shall not steal,*’ ‘*You shall not bear false witness,*’ ¹⁹ ‘*Honor your father and your mother,*’ and, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ”

MATTHEW 19:16–22 (NKJV)

²⁰ The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” ²¹ Jesus said to him, “If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” ²² But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.