

# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”



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

# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

LUKE 10:38-42 (NKJV)

<sup>38</sup> Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. <sup>39</sup> And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word.



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

## LUKE 10:38-42 (NKJV)

<sup>40</sup> 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.” <sup>41</sup> And Jesus answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. <sup>42</sup> 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”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

Atheism? Humanism?  
Human Philosophy? ...

Immorality? Porn?  
Alcohol? Drugs? ...

Pride? Anger? Hatred?  
Jealousy? ...

Distracted by things  
in the world?

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



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”



**The Pew Research Center**

AUGUST 23, 2016

Choosing a New Church or House of Worship

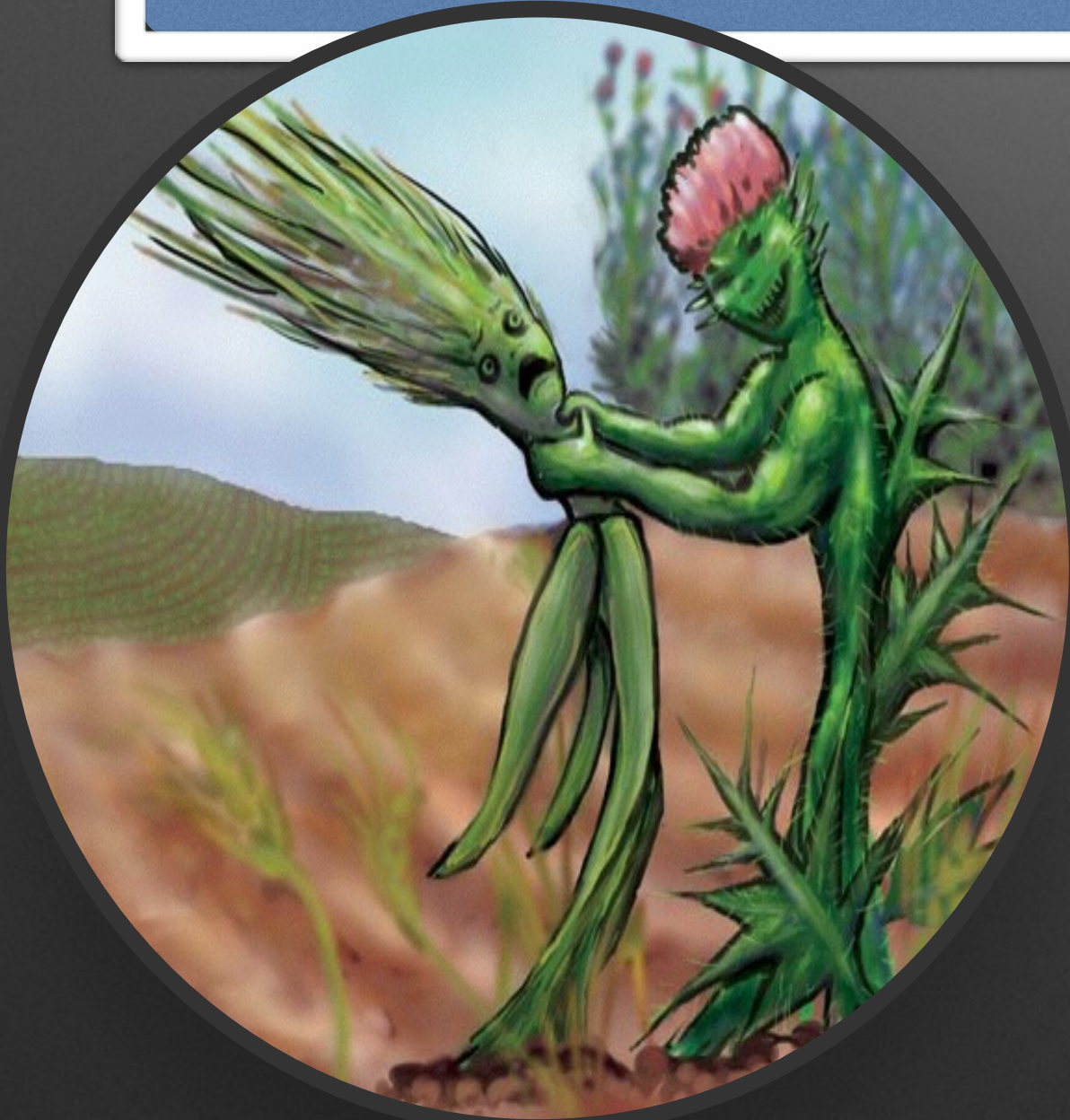
“49% of American adults now attend religious services just a few times a year, rarely or never. ... A substantial proportion (22% of all U.S. adults) say they now go to religious services less often than they did at another point during adulthood.”

“... 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”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

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



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Service?

Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)  
<sup>22</sup> “The lamp of the body is  
the eye. ... <sup>24</sup> “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”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

Our Values?

- Can easily become disordered

Our Focus?

- When ask – we will probably answer correctly

Our Service?

- Is knowledge and good intentions enough?
- Where do our priorities really lie?



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

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”

## What Do We Think About?



- Our minds should be set upon spiritual things – (Ps 1:2; Col. 3:1,2; Phil. 4:8; Rom 8:5-9)
- 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?



- Affects 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 focussed on temporal things we will not bear spiritual fruit to perfection - (Mat 13:22)



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

## What Do We Talk About Most?

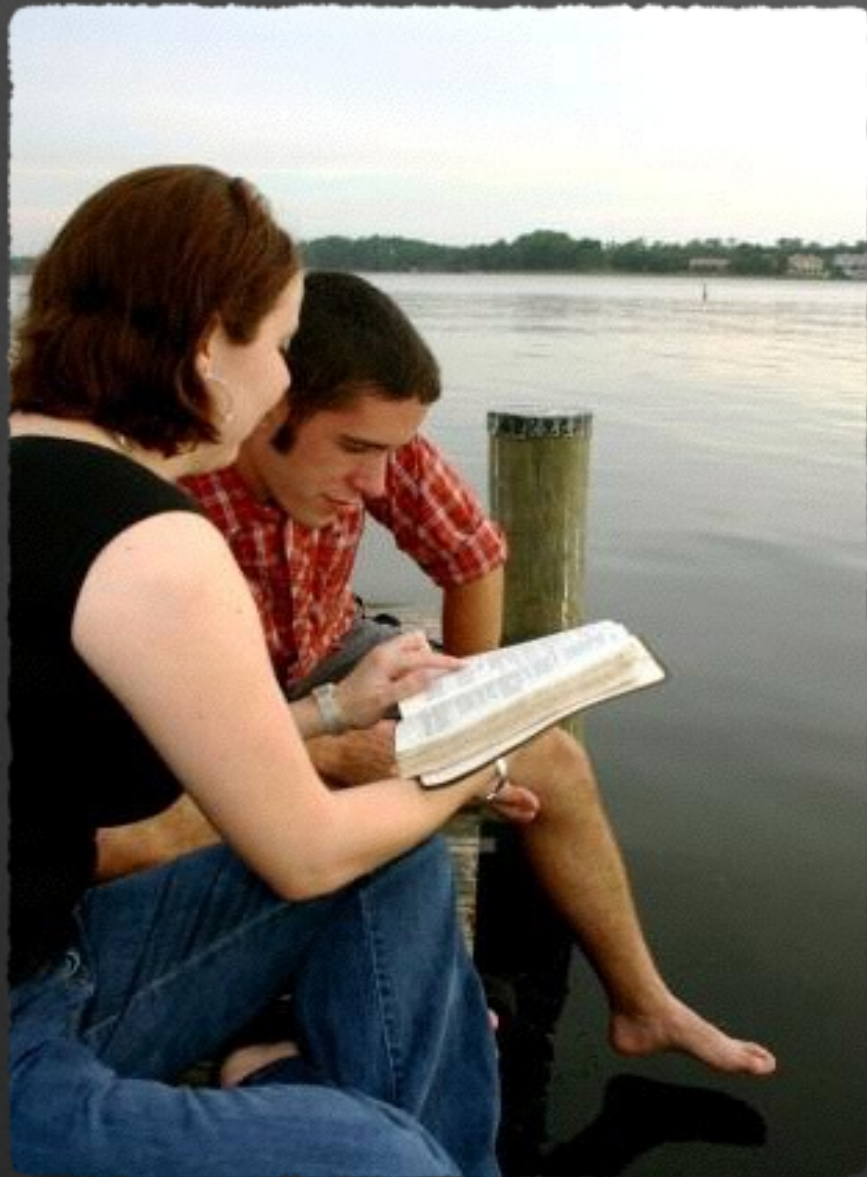


- The conversations we engage in arise quite naturally out of the things that are on our minds - (Mat 15:18; 12:37; Acts 4:20; 17:16,17)
  - To what do our conversations more naturally, and enthusiastically gravitate?
  - Even when speaking of temporal things - if our focus is spiritual, we will speak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



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

## 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)

<sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; <sup>21</sup> 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. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> 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 ...

- The condition of our hearts determines how we hear.

Thin Soil ...

- How we hear determines the level of our faith, commitment & perseverance.

Thorny Ground ...

- The level of our faith, commitment & perseverance will determine the type of fruit we bear!

Good Ground ...



# “Fruit of The FOCUSSED 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 - (Acts 19:18-20; James 1:25)
- Bears fruit – 1 Thes 1:8-10
- A heart like the one described in Psalm 1:1-3?



# “Fruit of The FOCUSSED 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 FOCUSSED 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.



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Service?

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?



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Service?

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



# “Fruit of The Distracted Saint”

Is the devil driving a wedge  
between YOU and the Lord?

Our Values?

Our Focus?

Our Service?

Are you IN CHRIST?

– Have you by faith  
repented – confessed –  
been baptized?

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)

## Charts by Don McClain

Prepared August 26,27, 2016 / Preached August 28, 2016

West 65th Street church of Christ / P.O. Box 190062 / Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062 / 501-749-6928 / Email – [donmcclain@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmcclain@sbcglobal.net)

Prepared w/ Keynote More lessons: <http://w65stchurchofchrist.org/coc/sermons/>



# MATTHEW 19:16-22 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Now behold, one came and said to Him, “Good Teacher, what good thing shall I do that I may have eternal life?” <sup>17</sup> 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.” <sup>18</sup> 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,*’ <sup>19</sup> ‘*Honor your father and your mother,*’ and, ‘*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*’ ”



# MATTHEW 19:16-22 (NKJV)

<sup>20</sup> The young man said to Him, “All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack?” <sup>21</sup> 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.” <sup>22</sup> But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.