

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

A garden is a plot of land which is picked out, set aside, prepared, planted, and tended by one who has a purpose to enjoy the fruits of it. The beauty and fruitfulness of any garden manifests the skill of the one who is its gardener. A weed patch on the other hand grows all by itself and needs no tending at all. Weeds will grow until the time of the harvest and will produce after their own kind without any special care or concern. A garden left untended will ultimately become a weed patch, since it is in the very nature of weeds to grow wherever their seed shall fall. In fact weeds will even grow in a well-tended garden with only the desire and skill of the gardener to control them.

In the scriptures we read of a “Garden” which was planted by the same skillful GARDENER who planted the Garden of Eden, which was actually planted before the Garden found in Eden. *“A garden inclosed is my sister, my spouse; a spring shut up, a fountain sealed.* This “Garden” is that Bride which the LORD loved from before the foundation of the world and chose in CHRIST. *“that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.”* Just as HE planted the Garden in Eden to fulfill HIS purpose so too did HE plant this “Garden” and “enclose” it with the hedge of HIS grace.

This is a Garden which the LORD planted for HIS own enjoyment, and out of which HE causes the perfumes and odors of HIS spices to come forth according as HE directs the NORTH WIND to blow upon it. This *“planting of the LORD”* grows exactly as HE who planted it desires and HIS enjoyment of it cannot in anywise be hindered. None can breach its walls to spoil that which HE has planted nor can any enjoy the fruits of this Garden apart from those who are privileged to be planted therein.

Then we read of another Garden which the LORD visited from time to time when HE walked upon this earth. This was a Garden which was planted by the hands of men and was called Gethsemane. . Gethsemane literally means “an olive press”, and it was here, no doubt, that the fruit of the Mount of Olives was pressed in order to produce the needed oil for light and food. The LORD JESUS often resorted to this Garden as well as the Mount of Olives to pray. On the night in which HE was betrayed HE was found here by those who were intent on HIS destruction. Prior to HIS arrest by these unjust men, HE had visited this “olive press” and here poured out HIS soul as an offering for sin before the face of HIS FATHER. It was here that HE shed HIS blood in the agony of sin’s great burden.

Here HE wrestled with death itself and entered into the very anteroom of hell in the behalf of HIS beloved bride. It was here that HE exalted HIS FATHER’s will and the glory of HIS kingdom. It was here that HE manifested, most clearly, HIS SONSHIP, as the only BEGOTTEN of HIS FATHER. This garden was entered that night by crossing the Brook Cedron. This brook was also known as the Black Brook and was essentially a sewer which flowed out from Jerusalem. There was a canal which flowed into it even from the Temple into which the excess blood and dung of those Jewish sacrifices were cast. This brook ultimately emptied its contents into the Dead Sea. Is this not a clear picture of the sin of HIS people?

It is interesting to consider that the scriptures say that HE crossed this “brook” *“with HIS disciples”*. In this we are reminded that GOD *“hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”* *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”* As HE took HIS disciples across this foul sewer; so too has HE delivered HIS elect bride from the stench of their sin by crossing it HIMSELF. Well did Isaiah say, *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows:--he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”*

There is another garden, planted by men, which the LORD entered, not in life but in death. *“Now in the place where he was crucified there was a garden; and in the garden a new sepulchre, wherein was never man yet laid.”* The LORD JESUS being eternal with HIS FATHER, had no need of any sepulcher except as it pleased HIM to taste death as every man shall. HE came into the world for this very purpose and though the man who had this sepulcher carved out was sure he would one day be its first occupant, yet the GOD who is rich in mercy, had ordained that this tomb’s FIRSTFRUITS would be that ONE who would destroy death and take captivity captive. It was from the Mount of Olives, but a stone’s cast from Gethsamane that the LORD ascended back into the heavens. It is here that the angels testified that *“this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”* Even so come LORD JESUS.

“Thy free grace alone,”#11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net**