

SERIES: I HAVE DECIDED

JULY 10, 2022

MESSAGE: "TO DO SOME WEEDING" PASTOR GEORGE WASSON

LUKE 8:7, 14, NLT

"Other seed fell among thorns (weeds) that grew up with it and choked out the tender plants... The seeds that fell among the thorns (weeds) represent those who hear the message, but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the cares and riches and pleasures of this life. And so they never grow into maturity."

THE MESSAGE

To hear from God, we have to eliminate _____

- Anything that diverts our attention from the reality of what is really going on around us
- *"Whatever excites the curiosity, scatters the thoughts, disquiets the heart, absorbs the interests or shifts our life focus from the kingdom of God within us to the world around us—that is a distraction; and the world is full of them."* – A.W. Tozer

THREE TYPES OF DISTRACTIONS

"And the seed that fell in the weeds—well, these are the ones who hear, but then the seed is crowded out and nothing comes of it as they go about their lives worrying about tomorrow, making money, and having fun." – LUKE 8:14, THE MESSAGE

1. _____ = from the Greek word "merizo" (worries) which indicates being pulled in different directions
2. _____ = from the Greek word "pletho" which is used to refer to an abundance of material wealth or prosperity
3. _____ – from the Greek word "hedone" which is the root of our English word hedonism, which is the doctrine that pleasure or happiness is the sole or chief good in life, and is manifest as an insatiable pursuit of self-satisfaction that so characterizes our modern society.

WEEDING PRODUCES FRUIT

"Weeds are a sign of neglect. If you don't eliminate them, they can strangle the spiritual life out of you." - PASTOR RICK WARREN

1. _____ less

"The one thing I ask of the Lord—the thing I seek most—is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in his Temple."
– PSALM 27:4

"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be." – MATTHEW 6:19-21

2. _____ more

"Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy." – PSALM 100:2

"And, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him." – ROMANS 12:1

3. _____ with God

"I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead." – PHILIPPIANS 3:13

"O people, the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God." – MICAH 6:8

"Distractions must be conquered or they will conquer us."
A.W. TOZER