



*Sermon Series--Crop Failure
Part Two—Lack of Dedication*

Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

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Objective Sentence: Everyone can avoid crop failure by not making three mistakes associated with crop failure.

Introduction One: Before there was gel and a thousand other styling products, used numerous oils and tonics to style their hair: *Wild Root Cream Oil [Charlie]; Vitalis; Murray's Superior Hair Dressing Pomade*. But the best of all was Brylcreem and its unique slogan that was wonderfully effective in helping promote this popular product. The jingle went as follows: **BRYLCREAM A LITTLE DAB WILL DO YOU**. There was also a jingle that went along with it--*Brylcreem little dab will do you; Use more, only if you dare; But watch out; The girls will all pursue ya; They'll love to put their fingers through your hair!* It is sad to say but a great number of people in the faith community have adopted the "**little dab will do you**" idea to their walk with God. Many want just a speck of godliness to appease their conscience when doing wrong; but nothing more—they are **Brylcreem Believers**.

Read Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23 NKJV Jesus spoke many things to them in parables, saying: "Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some *seed* fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. ⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. ⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears to hear, let him hear. ¹⁸ "Therefore hear the parable of the sower: 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.

- #1** **Lack of Dedication** (Brylcream Believers are Half Hearted Half the Distance followers of Christ. *1 John 1:9 Many only come to God seeking forgiveness but are not dedicated to change and cleansing from sin [2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 12:2]. When I first became a follower of Jesus I got tired of going to God time and again asking Him to forgive me for certain sins I kept doing—drinking, smoking pot, lust, anger and running away from problems. It dawned upon me by and by that I was only going half way with Jesus. I asked for forgiveness—but then sought Him until He no longer had to forgive me from certain things because He had purged them out of my life.*
- A.** **Helen Keller:** *Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired, and success achieved.*
- 1.** **No Depth in Relationship—Half the Distance Brylcream Believers** (*Romans 5:1-5 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; ⁴ and perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵ Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.) Perseverance produces character—some people give up following Jesus because they feel hopeless when it comes to serving the Lord because they do not persist when trouble comes and the result—lack of character lack of hope.*
- a.** **Matthew 7:21-22** Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. ²² Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ ²³ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness
- b.** **Pastor Dan:** Jesus compared a lack of spiritual depth to a field that has a thin covering of topsoil spread over a rocky surface. Shallow soil sustains plant life until it faces the sun’s heat. The roots of faith that do not grow deep in relationship with God will wither and die when the fiery trials come and test the endurance of every believer. False expectations, immaturity, sin, impure motives, inconsistency and misalignment of priorities are just a few of the things that result in a shallow walk with Christ.
- c.** **Pastor Dan:** When I talk to those couples who ask me to do their wedding one of the things I stress to them is WORK. Every married couple must strive and work hard at keeping the distance that will attempt to come between to a manageable minimum.

- d. *Simon “Distance” Peter* **Matthew 26:57-58** Those who had laid hold of Jesus led *Him* away to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders were assembled. ⁵⁸ **But Peter followed Him at a distance** to the high priest’s courtyard
- e. *Oliver Cromwell*: If I cease being better I cease being good.
- f. *Oswald Chambers*: God does not give us overcoming life he gives us life as we overcome. God does not deliver us from adversity he delivers us in adversity.
- g.. *Pastor Dan*: You must come to terms with the facts of faith—there will be tough times for you to endure—it’s the testing of your faith that produces perseverance in your walk with God. **Job did not suffer because he sinned; Job suffered because he was living right and honoring the Lord.** I embraced a false conception in the beginning of my walk with Jesus—I believed that if I gave my life to God that He would destroy all the sinful things lurking in the shadows of my carnal life. **God does not put to death the sinful earthly things that lurk within you—He gives you the power to put those things to death. God does not crucify the flesh for you—He gives you the power to crucify the flesh for yourself.** I also thought if I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and received my supernatural prayer language allowing me to communicate with God on His level of understanding; I would never be overcome with the temptation to sin again. WRONG AGAIN!
- h. *Billy Joe Daughtery*: **2 Corinthians 4:9 Amplified**: We are stuck down to the ground, but never stuck out and destroyed. Quitting is not an option for the overcomer. There’s no blessing in staying down. If someone’s mistake put you down, remember that God’s grace can lift you up and restore what’s been lost.
- i. **James 1:2; 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Timothy 3:12; Joshua 1:9 ; Psalm 119:165**

Closing and Invitation: There are three layers in our being with which we must come to terms. There are **surface issues, the things of the flesh**—those natural and physical desires that must be kept under control through the Holy Spirit that works in us. There are the **issues related to the soul**, those things which include the negative attitudes and feelings that we must conquer. And there are the **issues of the heart**—the things associated with our motives and priorities that we must purify through prayer and the Word of God. What is the motive behind what you do today? Is it connected to your relationship with the Lord and a true love for people, or is it all about you. In **John 14:13-14** Jesus said, “If you ask anything in my name I will do it that the Father may be glorified in the Son. Are my motives connected to God’s glory or my own glory.