

Quiet Time

(An Object Lesson)

Date: 02/16/2024

Topic: A Deep Tap Root

Thoughts: There was a retaining wall on the side of our home where a tree took root. It sprung up right against the wall, probably planted by a bird dropping. I neglected to remove it for some time being distracted by other projects. It was about 1.5 ft tall when I decided it was time to get it out. I pulled at the base of this young tree, but it wasn't budging. The plan was to rebuild the 4-foot retaining wall given the dirt at the base had washed away. I decided to remove all the blocks exposing the dirt. I figured I could just pull the tree out easily without disturbing the existing dirt, and then redo my wall foundation in preparation for the wall reconstruction. When I had completed the block removal, I quickly discovered the problem. Despite being only 1.5 ft tall above ground, the tree had an established tap root about 3.5 ft below ground. The 1.5 ft above ground didn't communicate the significance of the root structure below.

As I struggle with spiritual challenges, I am discovering that there are sinful ways in my heart that reflect my tree experience. On the surface, God reveals an issue in my life that needs to be addressed. But I procrastinate due to other priorities, finding comfort that the issue doesn't seem critical and that I will get to it soon enough. Meanwhile it drives a deep tap root into the soil of my heart. When it comes time to extract the issue, the challenge is great.

Areas needing to be addressed:

- Selfishness – I need to have the attitude of Christ (Phil 2:2-5)
- Pure Motives of the Heart - 1 Chronicles 28:9, Ps 119:9-11

Prayer:

- Confessing and Requesting (come before God asking for the Holy Spirit to work)
- Accountability Partner – spend time with a trusted brother asking for help with an issue (exercising humility)

Actions:

- Contact an accountability partner.