

## DEVO LUNCH 2.0

Last week in Devotion Time, we decided to spend at least 10 minutes a day reading Mark 4:1-20 and reflecting on the garden as a metaphor for the human heart.

Some interesting research showed that new trees in an old forest fare better than new trees planted in a clearing. This is counter to instinct since the trees in a clearing have plenty of space and have less competition for sunlight and water. In preparation for January 18<sup>th</sup> devotion time, let's take this one step further and discuss how our "roots" get stronger when we are in a diverse Christian community.

Acts 2:42-47 reads:

<sup>42</sup>They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup>Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup>All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup>They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup>Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup>praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

This verse teaches us of the great kinship enjoyed by the congregants of the early church. There has been much talk and concern about the decline of membership in churches in America. What can we learn from this passage in Acts that could be instructive to us today with regard to the priorities of a healthy Christian community?

**Join us Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon  
for a 30-minute discussion and prayer.  
The Zoom link is on the member dashboard.**