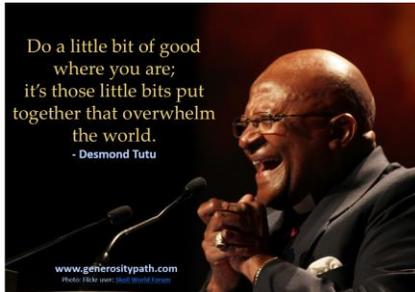


# How Are We Sowing Seeds of SHALOM?

Sermon Notes for July 10 2017 at Brentwood

Ps 65 & Matthew 13:1-23



**But blessed are your eyes, for they see,  
and your ears, for they hear.  
(Matt:13:16)**

## Provocative Ponderings that Call Forth Our Potential in Christ

- I spent Friday morning this week facilitating a session for an international nursing conference at UBC on how health care and public safety professionals in Great Vancouver are collaborating to deal with the opioid crisis – just to give you a sense of how serious the situation is, in the last 10 years, from 2007 – 2016, overdose deaths in the province have increased from 202 to 914 – highway fatalities and murders number somewhere in the teens for 2016 – complex, traumatizing, and demanding – but there was a thread running through all the presentations – treat the patient and your colleagues and yourself with kindness – that’s the language used – when you hear and see such distressful or threatening situations, be kind – respect the user, understand the complexities of what led them to this way of coping, and establish a kind relationship with them - what a great lesson in how we sowing seeds of SHALOM
- Jesus is inviting his listeners to be aware, to be attentive to what’s going on around them, to be looking for situations in which they can collaborate with him in blessing the creation – as our call to worship said, to all the ends of the earth and the farthest seas – circles of concern vs circles of influence – what we see and hear in our immediate circles is calling to us for acts of kindness to sow the blessing of SHALOM – in a smile, an encouraging word, a helping hand, a pair of socks – as Desmond Tutu, one of the leading activists in the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa, says in our sermon picture this morning, those little acts of kindness can change the world
- But let’s face it, kindness is not easy in a callous and threatening world – our natural responses are to withdraw into our own little garrisons of fear and anger – stay separate and safe from the other, the different, the impure – not what Jesus did – not what his work and witness encourages us to do – reached out in kindness to those who his society considered unclean and uncouth – respected them as beloved friends and siblings – saw and heard through their sufferings to the reality that they had greater potential than they had realized and that the start to recovery was a kind friend dealing with their immediate situation – sowing seeds of SHALOM in their lives right there and then

Notes for a sermon preached by Brian Fraser,  
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**At this point in our ponderings, then ...**

Most of us are not dealing on a day to day basis with the ravages of drug use and the opioid crisis – but we do encounter everyday people who could benefit greatly from a seed of God's SHALOM sown in their lives – through a smile, an encouraging word, a helping hand – it's simple, it's doable, and it provides all those seeds for God's Holy Spirit to nourish people, including those who offer such seeds, to flourish in the grace of Jesus Christ