

Carolyn Roth Ministry

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Good News in Nature

Throughout Jesus's life — in miracles, parables, teachings — he used plants to illustrate points. In Galilee and Judea, crowds understood his words and actions because they knew the plant symbolism. For example, the fig tree was the symbol for the nation of Judea. When Jesus used the fig tree, often he referred to the Jewish nation as a whole and most certainly to Jerusalem, the capital city of that nation and the location of God's temple.

All of my books can be purchased on my website in paperback. Electronic copies can be purchased on Amazon.

Two individuals who are examples for my life provided recommendations for this book.

Dr. Ed Bez, President of Biblical Botanical Garden Society: Carolyn A. Roth's ease of style makes this volume a delight to read. Her passion: to make the Gospel narratives not only come alive but applicable to our daily lives is evident throughout the entire book.

Dr. Douglas Kirtley, MD and Bible Teacher: In *Good News in Nature*, Carolyn expresses her love of Jesus through her love of plants. Through Carolyn's love of the world that God has provided, we have a greater depth of understanding of the Gospels story and life lessons for today.

Let my Heart be Good Soil *

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

*Handt Hanson,¹³ b. 1950, © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc. Public Domain

If you live in the Roanoke area and do not have a home church, please visit St. John Lutheran Church, 4608 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24018. 540-774-0712. Services at 8:15 and 11:00 a.m.

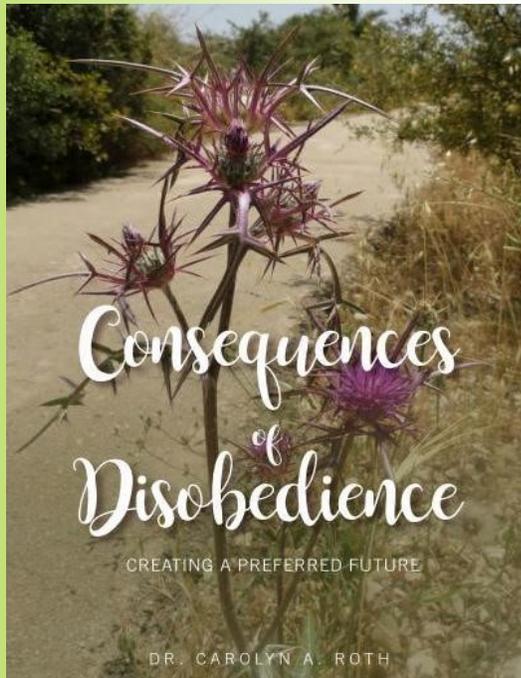
Consequences of Disobedience

Creating a Preferred Future

This book uses plants to describe the outcomes of disobedience. Published in late winter 2019.

An esteemed church friend wrote this recommendations: “What a book! Whoever would have thought that meaningful Biblical instruction could be found by examining various forms of plant life. Leave it to Dr. Carolyn Roth to research this easily overlooked aspect of biblical teaching and bring to light numerous lessons for Godly living. If you are looking for a truly innovative and interesting way to gain spiritual insight, this book is it.” John Domalski, Lay Minister, St. John Lutheran Church

Dr. Roth tackles this elusive topic courageously confronting the plants that gardeners dread. The result? She rewards curiosity with much to ponder, turning thorns, thistles, briars, and cohorts into a poignant prickling of conscious and deeper dig into Gog’s word. — Shelley S. Cramm, *God’s Word for Gardeners, NIV Bible*



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Working with Thorns, Dealing with People

Acacia wood was the only wood used to build the Tabernacle. The Bible named the wood used in the Tabernacle as *shittah*, which translates as acacia. Despite acacia’s plentiful presence on the Sinai Peninsula, the tree had a drawback: a pair of straight, light gray thorns at the base of each leaf. When Israelites cut down trees and fashioned boards (planks) for the Tent of Meeting walls, furniture, and poles, they had to contend with these thorns.

God could have supplied trees without thorns for Israelites to make boards for Tabernacle structures. Why did God have Israelites use a tree with thorns? After all, the Tabernacle was an important structure of Israelite worship. Building it should have been easy.

One answer is that acacia tree thorns assisted Israelites to comprehend that just because they were out of Egypt didn’t mean that all would be smooth in their lives. In their new world, plants had thorns that could/would pierce and puncture their skin.

I am a conservative woman who is a Christian. Similar to Israelites on Sinai, Christian women in the 21st century need to work with what is available in their world. In the Sinai, an acacia tree was available. In my world thorns are persons, political parties, and at times even church. Some days, I think that there are more thorns than flowers in my environment. Some people just have so many thorns (and, of course, I don’t)!

Because opinions differ from mine, doesn’t mean others’ opinions are wrong. Possibly, my opinions and perspective are wrong (gasp!).

God put me in this life to live and interact with what and who is here. My interactions should promote God’s glory. How can we learn to interact with thorny people and institutions? I’ve thought of three ways.

First, we must know what we believe and why. If we claim to be Christian, we need to learn all we can about God and Christ; and know why we believe about them.

Second, we need to listen to different perspectives with an open mind; and not to just perspectives we agree with.

Third, we need to know when to keep quiet. If you don’t know about a certain issue, keep silent. You don’t have to have an opinion on every topic.

Importantly, we can deal with thorny problems while not becoming a thorny person.