



The Seed of the Sower Or The Blade, the Ear, the Corn and the Harvest

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Mark 4:26

Introduction:

- Last Wednesday evening, Bro. Black presented to us a tremendous message regarding the Laws of Sowing and Reaping. He also shared with us a great revelation regarding the nature of the seed that the sower plants, when he goes forth to sow. As I have prayed about this, over the past few days, it has become even larger to me. I have revisited some old familiar Scriptures, with an entirely new perspective, and the ramifications for us, as believers, are tremendous.
 - **We find the seed of the sower defined in three ways:**
 - **Mark 4:14** *The sower soweth the word.*
 - **Matthew 13:38** *good seed are the children of the kingdom;*
 - **Mark 4:30** *Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed,*
- The seed, in other words, has three levels. It is the Word of God that goes forth into our hearts. Once it is there, then we become the seed, and we together make up the Kingdom of God, and so the Kingdom of God, or the Church, becomes seed as well.
- One way to describe it so it is clearer, is this way. A farmer takes a kernel of corn, and buries it. This kernel produces a stalk, with an ear of corn, which has seed, and which is part of an entire collection of seeds, on that cob.
- In each of these parables, the sower is the same- it is God. The field is the same- it is the world that we live in, and the receptiveness to God within their heart. And so the seed that God plants is critically important to understand. What does God plant, when He goes forward to prepare for a harvest? The Word of God, obviously. But how does He plant it, then? It is through us as individual believers, and we collectively as the Church. He sows the Word of God, by sowing us! We take the Word of God, when we go forth into the world, and as we are planted in the field of the world, He produces through us!
- This was not a foreign concept in the Old Testament. Listen to what He says about the scattering of the Jews around the world in **Ezekial 36:**
 - *8 But ye, O mountains of Israel, ye shall shoot forth your branches, and yield your fruit to my people of Israel; for they are at hand to come. 9 For, behold, I am for you, and I will turn unto you, and ye shall be tilled and sown: 10 and I will multiply men upon you, all the house of Israel, even all of it: and the cities shall be inhabited, and the wastes shall be builded: 11 and I will multiply upon you man and beast;*
 - Also in **Zechariah 10:9**
9 And I will sow them among the people: and they shall remember me in far countries; and they shall live with their children, and turn again.
 - And in **Hosea 2** *He said,*
22 And the earth shall hear the corn, and the wine, and the oil; and they shall hear Jezreel. 23 And I will sow her unto me in the earth; and I will have mercy upon her that had not obtained mercy; and I will say to them which were not my people, Thou art my people; and they shall say, Thou art my God.
- God is in the business of sowing His Word, by sowing His people!
- The ramifications of this are enormous, when you begin to read the many passages in which He refers to sowing.
 1. **We are sown first when we die out to the flesh**
 - **John 12: 24** *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit. 25 He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth*

his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. 26 If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be:

- But this dying to the flesh doesn't produce death, it produces spiritual power!
- ***1 Corinthians 15:42*** *So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 it is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.*

2. As we are planted in the world, and the Lord expects us to produce a harvest, there are things that will try to prevent us, or will influence our effectiveness.

- I know that we look at the parable of the sower and the four types of soil to indicate the things that can keep the Word of God from producing within our heart. But I think we can see an additional application in this Scripture, when we consider that He sows His Word through us. Not only are the conditions of the soil the conditions of the heart, but they are also the conditions that we have to overcome if we are to reach the world and produce a harvest for the Lord. Let's revisit this powerful parable again, with this thought in mind:
- ***Luke 8:5*** *A sower went out to sow his seed: and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it. 6 And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. 8 And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And when he had said these things, he cried, He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*
 - Jesus explains the parable of the four soils 9 And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be?
- ***12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.***
 - The devil is trying to take out, everything that we put in. We must guard the Word of God that we are putting forth.
- ***13 They on the rock are they, which, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.***
 - We have to establish people with deep roots, so when things go wrong, they don't lose out with God.
- ***14 And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.***
 - We have to work to make sure that people fall in Love with this message and this experience, so when things are going good, they recognize it as the blessing of God, and don't lose out because of their success.
- ***15 But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience***
- ***Matthew*** writes this verse this way,
13:23 But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.
 - Our challenge with the good soil, is to recognize that it produces at different levels. I think it produces differently, depending upon how much we invest into it.

3. The message of the seed tells us to not worry when things are small, if they are in the will of God, and following Truth

- **Mark 4:30** *And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: 32 but when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.*
 - Our job is sowing, and reaping. God's job is to give the increase. If we work to sow more, and reap better, God will take care of the rest.

4. The message of the seed tells us that there will be both good and bad people growing side by side, and we should leave that up to God (and pray that we are one of the good ones, and not the bad.)

- **Matthew 13: 24** *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: 25 but while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. 26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. 27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? 28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? 29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.*

5. The message of the seed is that God expects to receive something from us in the way of a Harvest.

- **Mark 4:26** *And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27 and should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.*
 - He expects something in return for His investment
- **Luke 19:12** *He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. 13 And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. 14 But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. 15 And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. 16 Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. 17 And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. 18 And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. 19 And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. 20 And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: 21 for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. 22 And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: 23 wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? 24 And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. 25 (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) 26 For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. 27 But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.*