

Lesson 2: The Growing Seed

Reference: **Please Read:** Mark 4:26-29

Theme: The Process and Stages that the Growing Seed goes through unto Harvest

Context: Jesus further expounds on the Parable of the Sower & how the Kingdom works

Introduction:

It is really important to note what Jesus starts out by saying, “This is what the Kingdom of God is like.” In other words, God’s Kingdom operates this way, or this is how we are going to receive- seed time and harvest. The natural principles are patterned after the spiritual realm.

- So we need to study and apply these spiritual laws if we expect to receive
- It takes some effort to exercise the laws of seed time and harvest- that’s good for us
- Give a man a fish & feed him for a day; teach him how to fish & feed him for a lifetime

A Man Scatters Seed on the Ground

- There is no harvest without first planting seed, and we reap what we sow
- It is important to note that “Seed” takes on many forms- words and actions
- God’s Word is incorruptible seed, so it is the highest form of seed- **1 Peter 1:23**
- Our behavior, actions and deeds also act as seed sown- how we treat others
- The ground is our life and the lives of others; are affected by the seed being sown

Galatians 6:7-8

Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

Seed can be the words we speak, the time we sow in serving others, acts of kindness, giving finances to the local church as well as to others- **1 Corinthians 3:6; 9:11; 2 Corinthians 9:10.**

Hebrews 6:10

God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them.

- We are responsible for the type of seed we sow in our lives- good or bad
- Not only are we sowing seed in our lives but also in other people- great responsibility
- **Question:** “So what kind of seed are you deliberating sowing these days?”

Night and Day, the Seed Grows

Jesus says next, “Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows.”

Isaiah 55:10-11

As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

- I love this, let the seed do the work, it's like an investment, the return comes in time
- Once we sow the seed, the rest is automatic as long as we don't dig up our seed
- This is the “Rest” of God mentioned in **Hebrews 4:1-3**
- This is what Jesus meant by His yoke being “Easy” and the burden “Light”- **Mt. 11:30**
- Did all the hard work in purchasing our redemption; just need to mix our faith with it
- The Word is working mightily in us, releasing life, changing and producing fruit

1 Thessalonians 2:13

And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

Though He does not know how

Question: “Do we need to know exactly how something works to enjoy the benefit of it?”

Thankfully the Lord made so many things in this life that don't require our intimate understanding of the intricacies of how things work as a prerequisite to receiving and enjoying

- I may not know how a brown cow can eat green grass and produce white milk
 - o But I can enjoy the fruit of it in all kinds of dairy products- Amen!
- Our anatomy, so much of our bodily functions- works without us thinking about it
- I don't know how digestion breaks down food and disseminates in our body
 - o But if it doesn't work we'll certainly know about it and need healing
- When it comes to the seed of God's word we need to plant, water & cultivate it
 - o Sowing and watering comes by hearing the word preached and taught
 - o Cultivation is keeping our heart clear of weeds that would choke it
- Our part is the sowing/reaping, God's part is to make the seed grow- **1 Cor.15:37-38**

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.”

From the Ground Up

Next Jesus said, *“All by itself the soil produces grain — first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.”*

- First, the soil produces the grain, speaking of the human spirit
 - o Illustrated by the four types of soil in the Parable of the Sower
- The Kingdom of God is within us according to Jesus in **Luke 17:20-21**
- From our re-created human spirit, the seed of the Word of God grows and matures
- Clearly there is a process, stages and levels in seed development

During these stages of growth, the harvest is far from certain. Even though the seed is incorruptible, the soil is not, we are the variable in this equation. God and His Word never changes but we do- **Malachi 3:6; Mark 13:31; Hebrews 13:8.**

- We have to cultivate our heart, keep it free from choking weeds- **Mark 4:18-19**
- Keep our hearts free from bitterness and unforgiveness- **Heb. 12:15; Mark 11:25**
- Must avoid sin and walk in love towards others- **Ro. 13:10; James 4:1-5; 1 Peter 3:7**

Hebrews 6:11-12, “We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. We do not want you to become lazy, but to imitate those who through faith and patience inherit what has been promised.”

Question: “How do we go about guarding our heart, why is this so important?” **Prv 4:20-27**

Finally the Harvest has come

The climax of this whole process of the growing seed comes with reaping the harvest in verse 29, *“As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”*

John 12:23-24, “The Hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”

- We prepare the ground of our heart, protect and guard it- by walking in love
- And sow the seed of God’s Word by confessing it
- Next, we irrigate it through praise and thanksgiving and living right
- Don’t forget to pull out the weeds of doubt, worry and fear
- Finally when the harvest has come, we do the reaping, believing, and receiving of it
- We have to take possession of the harvest; walk through those doors of opportunity
- Parable of the sower & the growing seed complement each other- how Kingdom works
- **Please Read:** **John 4:35-37; 2 Timothy 2:6-7**