

Introduction:

- "Anyone can count the **seeds** in an apple, but only God can count the apples in a **seed.**" **Application:** Likewise, what we experience in life is small, finite and insignificant compared to what awaits us. If God has implanted the promise of infinite life and immeasurable productivity in every apple **Seed**, we can only imagine what He has in store for each of His beloved children. "That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, 'No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him'" (1 Corinthians 2:9).
- A farmer deals with many kinds of soil, sometimes within the same field. Some types of soil and portions of the field are more easily tilled and more productive but there's always that spot on the hillside or in the back corner where the pitch of the tractor's motor will change under the strain as it pulls through a tough patch. As a 12 year old on dark Oklahoma nights when the tractors lights failed to pierce clouds of dust, I learned to adjust the depth of the plow by the sound of the motor and maybe downshift a gear for the hard places Farmers don't skip the poor soil and neither did Jesus in His familiar parable of the sower. The parable is not primarily about harvest, it's primarily about planting. And though 75% of the planting bore no harvest, Jesus avoided the thing our contemporary and pragmatic philosophy of church growth would see as most obvious. "The sower should have concentrated on the best soil" we would conclude. But neither Jesus, nor Matthew in relating the parable, went there. In Jesus' explanation of the parable in Matthew 13:18-23 He focused on the "hearer of the word." At no point did he criticize the sower for a lack of discrimination between soil types. His job in fact was apparently not to choose what he thought to be the soil with the best prospect for harvest, (something we can never truly know anyway), the sowers job was simply to sow **seed.** **Application:** I wonder sometimes if in our enthusiasm to build the church and win the lost, we are actually too calculating and too pragmatic. There is a "Lord of the harvest" who reminds us "I will build my church." Perhaps it's time to downshift a gear and rediscover the power of obedience; of simply planting Seeds in all types of soil through every opportunity the Lord of the harvest provides. Perhaps our role should be to become less success oriented, less market-driven and research-dependent and to become more faithful and obedient sowers of Seed.

1. The Word, It is God's Seed

a. God's word is God's Seed.

- i. It exists to be planted. That is its purpose. Seeds according to Genesis 1:11-12 are to reproduce after their own kind. Its purpose is multiplication. Its purpose is the promise of fruit. And it produces after its own kind. *Zera* Heb.-This technical term is an important aspect of the promise doctrine¹. It is where we begin to understand promises from. Mk 4 the farmer sows the seed, word.
- ii. God put His promise in a package called a seed.
 1. The seed will always produce what is in it. You do not have to be concerned about a tomato seed producing green beans. SO, when Jesus speaks of the Word of God as seed He is stating that it will produce after what is in it.
 2. The only purpose of God's promises is their fulfillment, meaning it will happen if given the right conditions. Seeds needs soil and water. Gods word requires the soil of humility and faith.
 3. Seeds/God's Words are revelation of what God is eager to do. *"It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the Kingdom."* Luke 12:32 One of the ways he gives us the Kingdom is through the seed of His word.

¹ Kaiser, W. C. (1999). 582 . (R. L. Harris, G. L. Archer Jr., & B. K. Waltke, Eds.) *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*. Chicago: Moody Press.

- iii. “It is God’s word that lets us know what to trust Him for.” – FF Bosworth fr. *Christ the Healer*
- b. God’s seed is God’s word.
 - i. Its potential is meant to be released.
 - 1. All of Gods wonderful works are potentially in the seed.
 - 2. Jer 1:12 *Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am ready to perform My word.”* NKJV
 - ii. Until it is planted its potential remains dormant. It is in there but dormant. Ie. Seeds found at Masada nearly two thousand year old still produce after their own kind. They still require faith and humility to activate the life that is in the seed.
 - iii. “Faith begins where the will of God is known.” FF Bosworth.
 - iv. “And the power of God can only be claimed where the will of God is known.” FF Bosworth.
- c. The seed has to be planted
 - i. The purpose of the seed is to be planted – that is the only place it can fulfill its purpose of reproducing after its own kind. Law of Genesis. *“Don’t be so surprised! Indeed, the time is coming when all the dead in their graves will hear the voice of God’s Son, and they will rise again. Those who have done good will rise to experience eternal life, and those who have continued in evil will rise to experience judgment.”* (John 5:28–29, NLT)
 - ii. 1 Cor. 3:6 Paul says, “I planted...Apolos watered” What did He plant? Seed=Word
 - iii. Apollos watered – nurtured, cared for, gave the seed what it needed.
 - 1. Of the seed on stoney ground, it had no water and withered. Mk 4
 - 2. Be filled with the Spirit. Out of your belly will flow rivers of living water. Trees by the river bear fruit all year long and all kinds of fruit
 - iv. God made it to grow. When? After it was received by the soil and further nurtured by Apollos.
 - 1. God would be unjust to not make the seed grow if we meet the conditions planting and watering.
 - 2. So His justice requires that He make the seed grow.

2. Your Life, It is God’s Field

- a. Vs. 9 “You are God’s field.”
 - i. It makes a difference whose you are.
 - ii. Phil 1:6 *confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;* NKJV
 - iii. Eph 2:10 *For we are His workmanship , created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* NKJV
- b. Mark 4:14-ff The fields represent the different types of people who receive the word. We all belong to God. *“The earth is the Lords and all the fullness there of.”*
 - i. Hard ground - does not receive the seed.
 - ii. Stoney ground - receive the seed but has not root.
 - iii. Weedy ground - receives the seed but is not tended.
 - iv. Good ground - receives the seed, is tended well and produces a harvest.
- c. God doesn’t make failures, God grows gardens well. Isa 58:11 *The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden ,* NKJV

d. He makes the deserts bloom and rejoice. Isaiah 35:1-ff.

3. The Victory, It is God's Glory

- a. Eph 4:11-13 "Eph 4:13-14 *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro,* NKJV
 - i. This is the goal. To the measure of the stature of Christ.
 - ii. When we get there God is truly Glorified.
- b. Where the Word of God dwells there the glory dwells
 - i. Jesus is the Word, sent by God.
 - ii. Let the word dwell in you richly Col. 3:16
- c. Where God is revealed there His glory is seen.
 - i. The Word reveals God. And the Word displays His glory.
 - ii. If the word is in you the field, then the glory will be seen and it is all Gods glory!

Conclusion:

- According to Consumer Reports in 2006, one out of every five gift-cards went unused the previous year. This represents nearly a billion dollars in unredeemed cards. The Leading Reasons Were: A shortage of time: 50 percent /Not finding what was wanted: 37 percent/ Lost the card: 14 percent /The card expired: 12 percent. All of them failed to use the card. They had it in their possession but failed to use it.
- The Word is God's seed and you are His field. A farmer is praised by the look of his field. That means that farmer has made the right decisions for that given year and his crops looks pleasant and productive. Remember that you are God's field and He want your life to bear much fruit.
- When you bear much fruit it brings God glory!