



## True Fellowship HOLINESS CHURCH

Bible Discussion – April 15, 2020

Evangelist Dot, Facilitator

### What Kind of Seeds are you Sowing?

Growth begins with the sowing of seeds. A seed is a very small thing, compared to the harvest it produces. The same concept applies to our spiritual lives; whatever you plant will grow. Today many farmers use Sandy Loam; it is one of the best soils for seeding because it is composed of three different types of soil: sand, silt and clay. As Christians our fertile soil is the trinity: Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Just like the farmer; if we don't plant good seeds in great soil, we should not expect a fruitful harvest. A good farmer/sower understands that there are many types of seeds that they can cultivate and grow. Perennial fruit and vegetables such as blueberries, apples, carrots, potatoes and snow peas and garlic grow year- round; once planted in good soil they harvest year after year. Are you planting perennial seeds in your spiritual life or are you sowing seasonal seeds? God truly desires consistency in kingdom growth. In **Mark 4:26-29**, Jesus uses a parable to compare God's kingdom to a man who plants a seed in the ground. The seed grows day and night whether the man is sleeping or awake, yet he knows not how this happens.

It's amazing how you can change your life simply by paying attention to the spiritual seeds you sow daily. The Lord knows this, so he says, **"Do not be deceived. God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows, this will that person also reap. For those who sow to their own flesh, shall reap corruption from the flesh. But the one who sow to the Spirit, shall reap eternal life from the Spirit"** (Galatians 6:7-10)

#### #1 Seed = The Word of God

Every Christian believer ought to be a spiritual Johnny Appleseed, planting seeds everywhere they go. The Word of God is that Seed by which men are born-again into the kingdom of God. I Peter 1:23, **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."** The Bible is the Seed which must be planted into men's hearts if one is to be saved. **(Self-Reflection) – How often do you share the Word of God or God's plan of salvation?** God's gift of salvation to you was given to be shared. Unfortunately, there are many people who don't share the gift because they have lost it along the way. Some feel they don't know enough about God's Word to share it. If that is the case, then one must attend Bible Study, Sunday School and study during free time. Attending Bible study and Sunday School is a great way to ask questions and get grassroot understanding of God's Word so that you can sow the Seed of HIS WORD. **What are you doing with your free time? (Self-Reflection).** Whatever you cultivate with your time will grow. While some may shudder at the idea of talking to strangers about God and HIS plan of salvation this lesson may not help you overcome your fears, but prayerfully it will get you to think about the importance of sowing the seed of God's Word.

What type of seeds are you planting? Are you planting seeds of hatred, gossip, and distrust of others? Or are you planting seeds of good works done in Jesus' name? **Are you planting seeds through your spiritual gift(s)? (Discussion) See Romans 12:6-8, I Corinthians 12:8-10**

Let's cut to the chase... are you a builder or a destroyer? Are you one of those people who think you can "sow a seed" of tithe and offering and buy a heavenly seat?

**References:** Neverthirsty.org, Simplybible.com, soulwinning.info, Biblegateway.com

There are many professed Christian believers today that are floaters, neither building nor destroying. They simply don't care either way because they show up to church and pay their tithes and offering weekly. They whole-heartedly believe they have fulfilled their Christian duty. Our churches are filled with floaters who sit on their blessed assurance pew, never doing anything to make a difference for Christ. **II Corinthians 4:3, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost."** Oh, how great the cost of silence? The world is headed for eternal damnation. If we hide the Word of God by remaining silent because we are too preoccupied with this temporal world or busy making excuses, then here lies two questions; what kind of seeds are you planting and what type of trees do you expect to produce? Let's examine the parable of the sower, **Matthew 13:1-9 (Read and Discuss)**

### **The Word Vs. Wealth**

Mark 10:28-31

A man once complained that he was disappointed in God. When asked why he was disappointed with God, he said that he had been following the principle of giving a seed, but he was not receiving a hundred times back in return. He referred to Mark 10:28-31 and complained that God was not keeping His promise. Unfortunately, those who use Mark 10:28-31 to teach the concept of being blessed as the result of giving some money have missed the most obvious points of the passage and consequently the message.

Notice that Jesus said the one who receives a hundred times back must have given up his or her house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children or farms. The man above was asked if he had given up any of these things? Now if someone says that he or she has given up some of these things, Jesus adds that they must have given them up for the gospel's sake and not for the purpose of or becoming wealthier.

It is also important to notice in verse 30, Jesus tells us what we receive for giving up any of these things. He promises that we will receive a hundred times as many houses. That sounds great for someone who is greedy. Jesus also says that this person will receive a hundred times as many brothers, sisters and mothers. Now someone might rejoice over hundred times as many brothers and sisters, but how does someone get a hundred times as many mothers? How can someone have one hundred mothers? The answer is that Jesus is speaking figuratively in order to simply make the point that they will be blessed greatly.

The final important point to notice is that the reward is in the "age to come, eternal life." That is, Jesus is not talking about obtaining wealth, He is talking about giving everything in order to obtain eternal life. That is the same message of Matthew 10:37-39 and Matthew 16:24-27.

Malachi 3:8

Another important passage is Malachi 3:8 which says that we rob God when we do not give a tithe to Him. This passage of scripture applied to the Israelites in the Old Testament and not Christians today.

***Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. But ye say, Wherein have ye robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.***

***Malachi 3:8.*** Tithing served as a welfare tax, support for the Levitical priesthood or taxation in the Old Testament. Yet today, it is not uncommon for pastors to tell members that if they don't sow a financial seed, they are robbing God and they won't be blessed. How can one Rob the ONE who has it all? This is not to mean that one should not give to the house of God or HIS servant, but one must understand the principle of giving as it relates to New Testament scripture. **II Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."** Unfortunately, those who teach that a Christian can become rich by giving their money to some ministry are encouraging greed. One must also ask why do some ministries encourage others to give money to them? Why don't they just seed other ministries and wait to reap ten-fold or one hundred- fold in return? If the principle works, imagine how much money they would receive.

**References:** Neverthirsty.org, Simplybible.com, soulwinning.info, Biblegateway.com

Moreover, there are times many people desire to give, but don't have...no worries **Philippians 4:19** *"And my God will meet all of your needs according to his riches in Glory"*. **Matthew 6:33** *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Discuss - The Word vs. Wealth)*

### **Are you Still Wandering About Other Kinds of Seeds you can Sow?**

The "fruit of the Spirit" give us a general idea of the kinds of small and ordinary seeds Christians can sow daily for a greater harvest later. **Galatians 5:22-23** *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance: against there is no such law."*

### **In Conclusion**

Small and ordinary as a seed may be, if it remains alive it will sprout when you sow it. The seed is faithful and reliable in doing what God meant it to do, when it is sown. If our spiritual seeds are faithful, they will produce much fruit in due season.

We need to have the same patience and faith in sowing to the spirit as the farmer has in sowing to the earth. *"Behold the farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains"* (James 5:7-8).

In the same way, *"Let us not lose heart in well doing for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary"* (Galatians 6:9).