
The Power Of The Seed, Part III (The Three Degrees Of Harvest, Maximizing Your Seed)

Faith And Finances, Part II

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Sermon: Faith And Finances, Part II: The Power Of The Seed, Part III (The Three Degrees Of Harvest, Maximizing Your Seed)

Lesson Text

Mark 4:20–24 (KJV)²⁰ And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. ²¹ And he said unto them, Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick? ²² For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad. ²³ If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. ²⁴ And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.

Introduction

So far, in our teaching on The Power of Seed, we've looked at its power from two perspectives:

- The Law of Reciprocity (Seed, Time, and Harvest)
- The Ground in which our seed is placed (Wayside/Hard, Stony/Shallow, Thorny/Crowded, and Good/Fertile).

Today I want us to look at the seed from one more perspective, and that is the Harvest.

Mark 4:²⁰ And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive *it*, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.

This verse speaks of three degrees of production; thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and a hundredfold. So why do we produce at different levels? Is it because of our different talents and abilities?

- Matthew 25:¹⁴ For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. ¹⁵ And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.
- But our production can't be based on our gifts because God has no respect of persons.
- As a matter of fact the first two actually produced a hundredfold and received the same reward: Matthew 25:21 (and 23) His lord said unto him, Well done, *thou* good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.
- But the last servant was called wicked, not because he produced less, but he produced nothing: Matthew 25:²⁶ His lord answered and said unto him, *Thou* wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: ²⁷ Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and *then* at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

The truth is, the three degrees of production is not based on our abilities, but on our efforts.

Is it because of our abilities (the parable of the talents)? No, it's because of our efforts!

Our main lesson text speak not of our abilities, but of our effort: Mark 4: ²⁴ And he said unto them, **Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.**

Simply put, the degree of your harvest production is directly related to the degree of your effort. Thirtyfold return represents the minimum effort. Sixtyfold return represents a better effort, but not your best. And a Hundredfold represents your maximum effort.

We do not have to settle for 30 or 60, we all have to potential to produce the maximum, 100!

Series and Sermon: Faith And Finances, Part II: The Power Of The Seed, Part III (The Three Degrees Of Harvest, Maximizing Your Seed)

(Lighting The Seed, Working The Seed, Harvesting The Seed)

I. Lighting The Seed

Mark 4: ²¹ And he said unto them, **Is a candle brought to be put under a bushel, or under a bed? and not to be set on a candlestick?**

The first degree of one's harvest is about how much light you put on your seed.

Too many Christians are not getting the maximum out of their seed because they are not exposing it to enough light.

There is a season in which we are intentionally hidden:

- Psalm 91: ¹ He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
- Psalm 27: ⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

God hides us during trouble (protection), and he hides us during development (germination). But he never intended for us to stay hidden. Don't go looking for a shade tree!

Matthew 5: ¹⁴ **Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.** ¹⁵ **Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.** ¹⁶ **Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.**

God always intended for us to come out of the hidden places to be exposed to the world, and out of the secret places to shine our light.

Mark 4: ²² **For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested (exposed); neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad (light).**

II. Working The Seed

Mark 4: ²³ **If any man have ears to hear, let him hear.** ²⁴ And he said unto them, **Take heed what ye hear:**

The second degree of one's harvest is about how much work you put in your seed.

A lot of people want to reap the benefits of the harvest, but they are not willing to put in the work for the harvest. They just want to set it and forget it, plant it and wait on it!

But in between planting it and waiting on it, there must be work.

We are not getting the maximum harvest for the seeds that God has given us because we are not putting in the work needed for the harvest.

We must work our faith and not die: James 2:²⁰ But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

We must work our season and not faint: Galatians 6: ⁹ And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

We must work our seed while it's day: John 9: ⁴ **I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.**

Revelation 22: ¹² **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.**

III. Harvesting The Seed

Mark 4: ²⁴ And he said unto them, **Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given.**

- The first degree of harvest is shining our light. God didn't call us to stay hidden.
- The second degree of harvest is putting in work. Faith without works is dead.
- The third and final degree of harvest is about getting your harvest.

"This fruit ain't going to pick itself!" First you plant the seed, then you work the seed, but now you must harvest the seed..

Matthew 9: ³⁷ Then saith he unto his disciples, **The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.**

The harvest is ripe, the harvest is plentiful, but we must go get it.

Blessings just show up, but we must go get the harvest.

After you've cried, go get your harvest: Psalm 30:5 (KJV)⁵ For his anger *endureth but a moment*; in his favour *is life*: weeping may endure for a night, but joy *cometh* in the morning.

After you've suffered, go get your harvest: 1 Peter 5: ¹⁰ ...Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle *you*.

We must go get our breakthrough, go get our deliverance, go get our healing, go get our promotion, go get our calling, go get our harvest.

Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: The Power Of The Seed, Part III (The Three Degrees Of Harvest, Maximizing Your Seed))

Lesson Text

- Mark 4:20–24

Sermon Outline

- I. *Lighting The Seed***
- II. *Working The Seed***
- III. *Harvesting The Seed***

Questions: (What was your main takeaway from this message?)

I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. If you could revisit one age in your life, which age would you choose—and what makes that season so special to you?
2. What’s one way you’ve grown or changed (for the better) since January, and how has that evolution shaped your life today?

II. Into The Bible

1. Read Luke 10:1-4. In verse 2, Jesus says “The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.” **a)** What is Jesus referring to as the harvest? **b)** Who are the laborers today? **c)** What are today’s laborers expected to do?
2. What do you think is the seed for the harvest that Jesus refers to in Luke 10:2? Explain your answer.

III. Life Application

1. In what ways have you worked your seed?
2. How can you increase your efforts to work your seed?