

FINDING THE FRUITFUL

Mark 4:3-8, 13-20 • January 2, 2022

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INTRO: We all want our efforts and investments to count; for what we produce to have an audience and an effect.

“Whoever has ears to hear let them hear.”

- Mark 4:9

I. DO YOU HAVE SOME GOOD SEED TO SOW?

The one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.

- Proverbs 11:18

There shall be a sowing of shalom (peace). The vine shall give its fruit, and the ground shall give its produce.

- Zechariah 8:12

A. Agape love for a neighbor: “A sacrificial zeal that steadfastly seeks the shalom, or true good, of the one who lives near”

II. DOING GOD’S WORK IN GOD’S WAY.

God has granted repentance that leads to life.

- Acts 11:8

As you do not know the path of the wind, or how the body is formed in a mother’s womb, so you cannot understand the work of God, the Maker of all things. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let your hands not be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

- Ecclesiastes 11:5-6

This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. All by itself the soil produces grain.

- Mark 4:26-28

III. Sowing widely and abundantly

A. The farmer sows the word (logos), the message of Christ.

B. Types of soils - Mark 4:15-20

- Seed along the path - Satan takes it away.
- Seed sown on rocky places - Has no root. Short lived.
- Seed sown among thorns - Choked and unfruitful.
- Seed sown on good soil: “These hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop—some thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times what was sown.”

IV. Don’t be hindered by the unreceptive soil.

A. Some people do not understand God’s truth because they are not ready for it.

- God reveals truth to people who will act on it, who will make it visible in their lives.
- Be patient and don’t be discouraged with small beginnings.

Jesus clarifies: *With the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and even more.* - Mark 4:24

Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously...And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

- 2 Corinthians 9:6,8

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

- 2 Corinthians 9:10

A mustard seed... is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants.

- Mark 4:31-32

CONCLUSION: *Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.*

Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.

- Hosea 10:12