

The Preparation (seed) Principle

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, April 23rd

We've been examining some scriptural principles to help guide and grow us. Stephen Covey observes:

"By centering our lives on timeless, unchanging principles, we create a fundamental paradigm of effective living. It's the center that puts all other centers in perspective."

We began this series in January by focusing on Pr 4:7 *"Wisdom is the principle thing, therefore get wisdom, and with all thy getting, get understanding"* **Wisdom is the biproduct of understanding and operating by unchanging biblical principles. (Joshua 1:8| Pr. 9:10)**

Last week we learned that: God Is Busy Planting Good Seed (Mt 13:24); Satan Is Busy Planting Bad Seed (Mt. 13:25); and We're Busy Planting Selfish Seed (Gal. 5:16-21).

This morning we'll focus on what happens to the seed that we allow to be planted into the soil of our souls. (Gal 6:7-9) **Principles Of The Harvest.**

1. You always reap what you sow. Ga. 6:7 *"whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"*

A. Wild oats (weeds) will reproduce "fruit", but it won't be edible (good) fruit.

Gen 1:11 *"bring forth...seed...after his kind"* Hos. 8:7 *"sown the wind, ...the bud shall yield no meal:"*

Ro. 6:23 *"The wages (harvest) of sin is death"* (See Rev. 20:11-15)

Job 4:8 *"they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same."*

B. We must be intentional (Proactive) about planting good seed. It requires that we:

1) Prepare on Purpose Hosea 10:12; Mt 13:8,23

2) Plant on Purpose Hos. 10:12 *"sow to yourself in righteousness, reap in mercy"*

3) Protect on Purpose Mt 21:33; Is. 5:1,2;

Jer 4:3 *"Break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns."*

C. Bad seed (weeds) are the biproduct of entropy and apathy. Pro 24:30-32

1) Weeds are natural to a fallen world!

2) They're promoted by wind, birds, and neglect!

2. You always reap After you sow. There's an extended season between sowing and reaping.

A. This is a Natural Principle. James 5:7,8 *"behold the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it Until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient, stablish your hearts"*

B. This (patience) is a Spiritual Principle. Heb. 10:35-38 *"For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. "*

C. This is a season of:

1) Protection (weed, water, feed) Remember Pr. 24:30-32!

2) Partnership (with God and others) 1 Cor 3:6 *"I planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase."*

a) This involves doing all that we can do, and trusting God to do what only He can do! Ps 37:3-5

b) Waiting on the Lord is not passive! (Ps 27:13-14; Ps 37:34; Is. 40:31)

"they that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength" (Qāwâ': to bind together, expect, (Partner!))

3) Temptation Gal. 6:9 *"let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"*

See also Heb. 10:35-39

a) Illustrate with the Moso bamboo. Years of care before any visible growth!

3. You always reap more than you sow. Hosea 8:7 *"They have sown the wind, (rûah) they shall reap the whirlwind" (sûpâ': Hurricane) From sûp meaning to utterly consume, terminate*
Mt. 13:8-9 *"...Brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold."*

A. The compounding principle

- 1) One kernel (seed) of corn can produce two "ears" of corn with up to 1,200 "seeds" each.
- 2) One apple seed can produce 800 apples with multiple seeds in each.

"Ten Little Christians came to church all the time; One fell out with the preacher, then there were nine.

Nine Little Christians stayed up late; One overslept on Sunday, then there were eight.

Eight Little Christians on their way to Heaven; One took the low road, then there were seven.

Seven Little Christians, chirping like chicks; One didn't like the singing, then there were six.

Six Little Christians seemed very much alive; One took a vacation, then there were five.

Five Little Christians pulling for Heaven's shore; One stopped to take a rest, then there were four.

Four Little Christians each as busy as a bee; One had his feelings hurt, then there were three.

Three Little Christians couldn't decide what to do; One couldn't have his way, then there were two.

Two Little Christians each won one more; Now don't you see, two plus two equals four.

Four Little Christians worked early and late; Each brought another one, now there were eight.

Eight Little Christians if they double as before; In just seven Sundays, we'd have 1024!

In this little jingle, there is a lesson true; You belong either to the building, or to the wrecking crew."

Conclusion:

There's A Limited Season For Planning, Preparing, Planting, Protecting.

Gal 6:9,10 *"...in due season we'll reap if we faint not. As we therefore have opportunity,*

(Kairos': time, season, due time) let us do good (agathos: that which benefits) ..."

If you miss the season, you'll miss the harvest! *"The harvest is past, ... and we are not saved."* Jer 8:20;

Application:

- 1) *If you don't prepare the soil (heart), the seed will be unable to penetrate, germinate, or reproduce.*
aka: "bring forth fruit" (Mt. 13:18-22; 2 Cor 6:2; Heb. 3:8)
- 2) *If you don't protect the soil (heart) it can /will become overgrown with weeds.* (Pro 24:30-32)
Pr 4:23 *"Keep (nāṣar': guard) thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues (boundaries) of life."*
- 3) *If you don't intentionally plant God's seeds, they can't take root and grow.* James 1:21; Ps 119:9-11
- 4) *If you don't recognize & remove the weeds, they'll: overtake the soil of your soul;
choke out God's seed; and render your life effectively & ultimately fruitless.* Jn 15:2-4

Hope is not a strategy! Good intentions are unproductive and inedible!

The word "responsibility" implies the ability to choose your response. (Act!) Stephen Cover observed:

"Proactive people recognize their responsibility. They don't blame circumstances or conditions...

But they accept responsibility for their behavior. Their behavior is a product of their own choices based on their values, rather than a product of their condition (circumstances) based on their feelings"

For Next week consider how we can:

- *Protect and prepare the soil of our souls for God's seed? Hosea 10:12; James 4:1-10*
- *Recognize and receive God's good seed into our souls? James 1:21-22; Josh. 1:8*
- *Recognize and remove the weeds that Satan and others have sown in our souls?*

1 Jn 1; Ps. 119:9-11; 139:23,24