

After Easter

Mark 4:26-41

Into the Lesson:

Continuing our focus on all things "Seeds, Soils and Sowers" spend some time considering some others from the Bible and the condition of the soil prior to the "seed dropping" in their lives:

David-II Samuel 11:1-5-
Peter-Luke 22:54-61-
Malchus-John 20:10-
The Centurian-Luke 27:54-
Thomas-John 20:24-25-
Saul of Tarsus-Acts 9:1-

Can you think of others from both the O.T. and N.T. who may not have appeared ready for the "seed of the Word" at times in their lives?

Into the Word:

As you reread Mark 4:26-34 make note of the Horticulture 101 information in vv.24-29. What is the significance of each stage of growth regarding the theme of "Seeds, Soil and Sowers"

Respond to Sam's statement, "...the seed grows regardless of what the man does".

From vv. 30-34 what seems to be the emphasis on the growth and result of the seed referred to in this passage?

How does Romans 12:6-8 fit into this passage?

In what ways does the mustard seed parable (vv. 30-32) provide a glimpse of the scope of the Kingdom of God?

Contrast the growth of the seed in vv.26-29 with the growth of the mustard seed in vv.33-34

How does Paul's teaching in I Corinthians 3:6-7 fit with the whole of this group of parables?

How does vv.35-41 provide something of an exclamation point on the whole teaching of seeds, soils and Sowers?

Into Life:

Who are some people groups (both domestically and internationally) that would be considered "hard soil" for the seed of the word to take root?

Consider groups like:

The LGBTQ community-
Muslim or Communist countries-
Biker Gangs-
College campuses-
A large portion of the United States-

What are some indications that "seeds" are already sprouting in these groups?

What can be done to begin the soil preparation process in the lives of those we encounter daily?

How can the realization that "Jesus is in control" provide us the assurance, "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13)

Although planting seeds is integral to our ministry in the world, is there a time when "next steps" need to be taken?

What might those steps look like?

How do we recognize when it's time to take the next step?

How do we encourage those from within this group if missions or full-time Christian ministry seems to be part of their "mustard tree" growth?

While stressing that one ministry area is no less important than another, how do we begin to expand the scope of ministry?

What role does corporate prayer play in this growth process?

They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

- Mark 4:41

