

Title: "First the Blade, then the Ear"

Scripture: Mark 4:26-29

Speaker: Vic Redding

Event: Sunday Morning Service

Date: October 26, 2014

Mark 4:26-29 *"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; 27 And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. 28 For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. 29 But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."*

Christ spoke in parables in order to make things more understanding for those that heard it. He used examples from daily life in order to relate the spiritual messages that he was trying to get across.

There are four words mentioned in these verses that stick out: sowing, sleeping, growing, and eating.

Interesting thoughts about seeds/plants:

It is said if the grass looks greener on the other side of the fence, you can be sure that the water bill is higher. The same is true for sin – we might think sin will fix things for now, but there will be a higher price to pay once you get on that side of the grass.

Turnip seeds can increase their weight up to 15,000 times each day. There is a certain cactus in the southwestern desert that can grow up to 50 feet tall and can weigh up to 10 tons. It's because their roots span a great distance underground. Its trunk is so thick and its roots are so thick, it can hold enough moisture to provide water even during periods of drought.

Facts about these Verses:

- Verse 26 says "a man". This is talking about you and I. The phrase "cast seed" is the word of God. The term "the ground" is also used. This is describing the heart of man.
- Verse 29 says "he putteth in the sickle". This is not the man from verse 26 because that man didn't know how. This man is God.

There is life in the seed, and there is power in the soil. Unless the right things are done and the right person does it, there will be no harvest. Isaiah 61:11 says *"For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations."* If we don't heed the words of our teachers, there will be no fruit.

1. **The work of the sower is a work of faith:** Verses 26-27 *"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how."* A farmer works on faith. He plants a seed and expects it to produce a harvest. They do the work preparing the soil, keeping them free of disease, bugs, etc., but they can't make it produce fruit. Only God knows which seeds will produce fruit. Whether you are a preacher, teacher, or saint witnessing to a stranger, don't give up just because the person you are witnessing to doesn't get saved immediately. It is our job to sow the seeds. God will handle the rest, just like with farming.
2. **We should do our work and leave the results with God:** Verse 28 *"For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear."* We have assurance from God's word that if it sown, God will bring forth fruit. Isaiah 55:9-11 gives us that assurance *"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it*

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shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." All we are to do is spread the gospel. Sow the seeds. God will take care of the rest. God's word is a seed that is never corruptible. It is strong and powerful. A person might refuse it but that doesn't change the fact that it can produce fruit. Men can't take credit and boast about "look what I've done". I Corinthians 3:6-7 *"I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."* Just because a church isn't overflowing with people doesn't mean that the seed isn't growing. God is doing the work. There can be no life without growth. We can't produce a harvest – God does that. Four thoughts about God's ability:

- a. To the saints: our lack of Bible reading, praying, gathering for fellowship will lead to a life where we are spiritually dwarfed. If a seed doesn't get enough nourishment it will not grow properly. It won't reach its full potential. Hebrews 5:12 *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."*
 - b. The Lord is seeking to produce himself in the hearts of men: when we plant tomatoes do we expect corn? No. It would be silly to think that could happen. Do you want to know what the will of God is in your life? God has one will for you this morning. That is to be an imitator of his son. There is no doubt about the will of God in our lives.
 - c. The Object of that Christian life is fruitful: John 15:4-5 *"Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.* God has called us to bring forth fruit. We are supposed to show fruits as an example of what God can do in our lives. We can't produce it if we don't sow the seed.
 - d. As a Christian we are representatives of the Lord Jesus Christ to a lost world: II Corinthians 5:18 *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; 19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."* You are that individual that God has given a purpose to. You are to sow that seed of the gospel throughout the world. Don't expect fruit if you are living a hypocritical life. Don't be so proud that you think you are better off than someone who hasn't had the joy of spreading seed yet either.
3. **The fruit is waiting for the Lord of the harvest:** Verse 29 *"But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."* It is the privilege for every Christian to look forward to the coming of Christ. We are approaching harvest time. The world keeps continuously turning its back on God and he's going to come back for his people. He will come harvest his fruits.

Are you the one who is working in the garden of God or are you one who God is calling to give you the seed to sow? Where do you stand when it comes to being a worker in the garden of God? If we are saved, we should be striving to make God's garden fruitful and overflowing with abundance.