

Seeds of Faith: Planted, Nourished, Harvested

You have been born anew
not from perishable
but from imperishable seed
through the living and abiding word of God.¹

The statement, "Jesus-era seed oldest to germinate," is true in more than one way. It was a Judean date palms seed about 2,000 years old discovered at Masada that surprised many by germinating. Its age is in the same time period when Jesus roamed the region and preached using a number of parables revolving about the metaphorical use of "seed" as "word of God." His words are as life-giving now as they were then.

In the **Parable of The Sower**², seeds were sown and some fell on a path, rocky ground, among thorns, and on fertile soil. The seed is a metaphor for the word of God and Jesus explains these situations.



On the path some were trampled, others eaten by birds; meaning there are those who hear the Word without understanding it, while others are influenced by Satanic ideas that take the Word away from their hearts so they will not be saved.

On rocky ground the seeds sprang up but not sustained because the soil was not deep so they withered for lack of moisture and roots. These are ones who at first receive the Word with joy but are not deeply rooted so they quickly fall away under adversity and times of trial.

Amid the thorns the plants were choked off and no grain was produced. Such ones choke the Word due to worldly anxieties, lure of riches, strong desires for worldly things, with the result of no fruit produced.

¹ 1Peter 1:23

² Mark 4:1-20, Matt 13:4-23, Luke 8:5-15

But those falling on fertile soil produced fruit, 30, 60, even a 100-fold. These have embraced the Word with generous and good hearts, accepting it and bearing fruit through perseverance.



The Parable of the Weeds Among the Wheat³ describes how the enemy planted weeds amidst the good wheat when the farmer is unaware. Hence, when the crop grew and bore fruit the weeds also appeared. He decided, at this time, not to pull them up, against the advice of his workers, because this would uproot too many of the wheat; hence, let them grow together and gather them at harvest time when they can be separated, keeping the good fruit but bundling up the weeds for burning.

When you hear of corrupt persons among the good community it is the Evil One who does this as he desires to mix in the bad with the good and confuse the innocent. No one who is begotten by God commits sin⁴, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot sin because he is begotten by God. In this way, the children of God and the children of the devil are made plain; no one who fails to act in righteousness belongs to God, nor anyone who does not love his brother.

Furthermore, there are times when corrupt persons have indulged in their sinfulness seemingly without constraint, not even being identified at early stages where even then it would harm the faith of many innocent persons.....but it also appears there are times when they must be rooted out even before the final harvest time has come; witness the recent scandals in religious communities when corrupt leaders are called out! Good and righteous communities are constantly being harassed by the Evil One.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed.⁵ Jesus likened the Kingdom of heaven to a tiny mustard seed which grows into a large shrub in which birds can make nests. If your faith, Jesus says, is the size of a mustard seed you can command mountains to move and sycamore trees be uprooted and they will be so moved. What is not mentioned is the time frame for which this will happen, for no doubt this calls for great patience. And the mountains to be moved, the trees to be uprooted, are not

³ Matthew 13:24-30

⁴ 1John3:9-10

⁵ Matt 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19

just vain shows of power, but rather are seemingly impossible tasks involving the movement and disruption of corrupt power into places that nullify their effects. When we encounter evil, we are called to do something about it, be it external to us or affecting us personally.



When seed⁶ is scattered, it sprouts and secretly grows and man does not know how this happens. The earth produces of itself as the seed becomes a tiny green blade, then an ear, then a fruitful grain that can be harvested. So too are the works of faith willed by words of God and empowered by Him; He is the One⁷ who supplies seed to the sower of justice, and will supply and multiply needed seed so as to increase the harvest of righteousness.

So, ask our Lord Jesus Christ, to help you clearly identify the troublesome mountains in your life that need moved or the difficult problems you need to uproot. Put your heart and soul into the effort and pursue it vigorously and pray for the determination see it through. Creative energy will be supplied by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and while progress may be slow it will be steady and recognizable. Praise God!

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⁶ Mark 4: 26-29

⁷ 2 Cor 9:10