

## Seasons of life 2

Last week we looked at the season of preparation. Without preparation we can't have the crop. We need to store up for the other seasons. When we get a blessing part of it needs to be placed away to be used in another season. That's real preparation.

Today we will look at the second season – planting.

Planting is sowing seed. It's taking that seed which we have and putting in a place that will produce enough for eating and sowing in the future.

### 2. Planting

This season is all about getting the right things into the ground. Getting the seed right, getting the foundation right, getting the seed into the ground

This includes things like: Mindsets, attitudes, culture

What seeds of mindsets have you been planting up until now?

What seeds of attitudes have you been planting?

What cultural seeds have you planted or had planted for you?

#### Luke 8:4-8

And when a great multitude had gathered, and they had come to Him from every city, He spoke by a parable:

A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it.

Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.

And some fell among thorns, and thorns sprang up with it and choked it.

But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundred-fold. When He had said these things he cried, He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

This scripture has often been interpreted to talk about sowing the word of God into the world and getting people saved. This true and can be evidenced in verses 11-15. But there are principles hidden within this powerful scripture. We need the principles of salvation in our world. Principles of our world aligned with God. Principles that will assist us in planting the right seed, at the right time and in the right place. These principles are inherently about salvation but can be applied to other aspects of our world. Let's have a look.

#### 'his seed'

We all have our own talents, time and treasure to invest. We can't invest what we don't have. We can only sow the seed we have.

I suppose then the best thing to start with is to understand what you have and what you can plant. I encourage you to take inventory of your world and ask God to help you sow for a future harvest.

There are a number of different places and climates that this seed falls. Each of these gives us a picture of something in our world.

### **Some fell by the wayside.**

The wayside is a place beside the road. It is often trampled on by unsuspecting travelers. It is the place where animals feed from because it has things trampled down and people don't always walk there.

Too often can we find people in church, in life who have tried to do something only to find that their idea is stolen by another person, treated badly by those around them or even called rubbish.

When we plant something we need to get all the right advice and surround ourselves with **people who believe in our seed and the place of our sowing**. Otherwise their words or actions could trample down the potential that lies within our seed. Most people don't care about your seed as much as there's.

Choosing the right place to sow is vital for the success of our planting. **Choosing people who will champion our world, our lives is crucial to success**. We shouldn't share our dreams with someone who has no idea about our lives. We shouldn't share our dreams with someone who is just passing through our world. We shouldn't share our seed with someone who has no understanding of what we have been through. While we might gain success, the chances of that happening are rare.

### **'Some fell on the rock, and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture.'**

Rocks are good for foundation for building upon, but they lack the ability to make our seed grow and produce fruit.

The rock mentioned here is a cracked and rock place. In other words it has some soil and may even grow things for a period of time but it doesn't get enough water to bring about the consistent growth we need.

### **What can we learn from this?**

Don't sow your seed in places that lack moisture. They are dry places. Freshness and moisture, water in the bible are synonymous with the Presence of God. Find a place that has the presence of God in it. We need the presence of God in our world to produce the growth needed after sowing our seed.

We shouldn't plant our seed in a place of fractured lives. Sometimes people come into our world promising so much but unable to bring much of it to pass because they themselves are fractured. They are all broken up, with bitterness, envy and resentment still hanging around in their lives. Be very careful with trusting the advice of someone when we don't know what they have been through.

### **'And some fell among the thorns, and the thorns sprang up with and choked it.'**

Thorns are problem people. Paul had a thorn in the flesh 2 Corinthians 12:7 the Israelites had thorns in their sides which were people. (Numbers 33:55)

As we grow in life some people will hold us back. It is not that they are inherently wrong, but they are thorny. They have issues they will not deal with and grow up from. Whenever we have something in our life which we fail to recognize as a fault it will turn into something which has attached itself to our lives and causes others grief. These things end up choking the life out of us and others who may come to try and help us.

My encouragement is to ask God to show you any thorns in your life.

**Many people are driven by compassion.** They just want to help people. But sometimes they don't know how to put boundaries around they world so that those people they are helping don't just suck the life out of them. People's problems have the potential to hurt us unless we put into place proper boundaries.

Notice these people sprang up with them. They were right there, slowly sucking the very life out of plant beside them.

**But some fell on good ground.**

Good ground always produces fruit in the long run. Planting your seed in good ground will produce fruit in the long run. It takes time to come but it will come. It will happen. Good ground produces good fruit.

Psalms 1 he shall bring forth its fruit in its season. Good ground does that. It comes at the right time.

Found some good ground them stay their. You will produce fruit in season. It will happen.

## **What things determine successful planting?**

- Using the seed we have – our seed is our talents.

Galatians 6

Whatever you sow you reap. Seed can be talents, time, mindsets, attitudes and even the culture of where we live.

- Timing for planting is imperative.

Eccles 3:2 a time to plant and a time to uproot, NIV

- Timing and conditions are two different things. If you are waiting for perfect conditions you will never plant, never start anything, never get going

Ecclesiastes 11:4

Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap.  
NIV

- Sometimes we play only a part in the purpose of God. We need to figure that out and be willing to let go when we need to

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11

By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

### 3. Producing

#### What things help us become more productive?

- Investment in others.

Productivity is about multiplication...the greatest level of fruitfulness. This is mostly achieved by what we invest in others

Mark 4:20

Others, like seed sown on good soil, hear the word, accept it, and produce a crop — thirty, sixty or even a hundred times what was sown." NIV

- Your level of productivity directly correlates with your level of sorting out issues in your life. If you refuse to let stuff be sorted it will hinder productivity

Matthew 3:8-10

Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. NIV

- Productivity and your relationship to the House of God are inseparable

Psalms 92:12-14

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree; they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, NIV

- Productivity can still continue under pressure if the right work has been done first

Jeremiah 17:8

He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." NIV

### 4. Pruning

#### What are the results of Pruning in your world?

- The righteous life gets better and better even through times of adjustment

Proverbs 4:18-19

The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble. NIV

- Difficult times actually produce even better times  
Romans 5:2-5

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. NIV

Romans 8:28-29

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. NIV

- The ultimate aim of pruning is more fruit  
Hebrews 12:10-11

Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in his holiness. No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it. NIV

Seasons are in our lives. That's, a certain! Understanding them and working with them will make your life sweet