



More than Fruit

Part 3 - Pastor Brian Gobar
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Dirty Work



I. INTRO/REVIEW

A. The season has changed

B. There are seasons where you might have to get your hands dirty

Psalm 126:1-3 (NKJV) When the Lord brought back the captivity of Zion, We were like those who dream. ² Then our mouth was filled with laughter, And our tongue with singing. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." ³ The Lord has done great things for us, *And* we are glad.

Psalm 126:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. ⁶ He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come gain with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves *with him*.

- Fruit is both proof of the past and provision for the future

C. New seasons bring new work

- We understand that when the season changes, the work changes.

Mark 4:3-9 (NIV) ³ "Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times." ⁹ Then Jesus said, "Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."

- What is the seed?

Mark 4:14 (NIV) The farmer sows the word

Luke 8:11 (NIV) "This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV) For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.

D. Stop trying to get what you already have!

- There is potential in the seed
- Fruit reveals what's living inside
- You don't need better seed, you need to give the seed better ground

II. THE SEED ISN'T THE PROBLEM



A. The condition of the ground matters

- Same sower, same seed, different ground
- If I want different fruit in the next season, I'm going to have to do some dirty work in this one.
- **The Path** – What others have done to me
- **The rocks** – What I've allowed to remain buried in me
- **The Thorns** – What sin has done to me

B. Thorns were not a part of God's plan

Genesis 3:17-18 (NIV) ¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' "Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

- There's some ground work I cannot accomplish on my own.
- The ground was cursed and produced thorns and thistles, but God had a plan to deal with the curse and the thorns that the curse produced

2 Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV) For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

- Jesus took the sin and left the blessing

Galatians 3:13-14 (NKJV) Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree"), ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

C. There's more than fruit

- Seeds don't look like a harvest, so don't judge what's coming by the size of what you're holding
 - The smallest seed can produce the biggest miracle

D. The fruit of yesterday contains the seed for tomorrow.

Psalms 126:5-6 (NKJV) ⁵ Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. ⁶ He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come gain with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves *with him*.

- Faith prepares for what God has promised, before sight can prove anything is happening