

The Seed Principle

Kingdom Principles Series

Scripture: John 12:24, 15:1-6
1 Corinthians 15:36

Introduction

There is a theme running throughout the scripture which tells us that our lives are to be productive for God. We are in great debt to God for our great salvation: we cannot repay that debt. But we can dedicate our lives to being a valuable asset to the kingdom of God. We are obliged to be productive for the kingdom.

I. The planting of the seed

John 12:24a Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground....

- A. Implications of falling to the ground
 - 1. Placed in a fertile environment
 - 2. Placed in an unclean environment
 - 3. Placed in a dark environment

Illustration: Carlsbad Caverns

Matthew 5:14, 16 Ye are the light of the world . A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Let your light so shine before men that men may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- B. Obligations of falling to the ground
 - 1. To yield to the will of the Master
 - 2. To accept our opportunity to serve God there

II. The death of the seed

John 12:24b ...and die, it abideth alone....

- A. The death of the former life

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

- B. The yielding of the present life

Philippians 3:8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered

the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

- 1. Assuming an identity as a Christian
- 2. Maintaining the crucifixion of the former life

Galatians 2:20a I am crucified with Christ....

1 Corinthians 9:27a But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection....

- a. Secret ambitions
- b. Secret dreams
- c. Secret hopes
- d. Secret desires

III. The rebirth of the seed

John 12:24c ...but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature....

- A. The embryonic plant within you
- B. The power to bring forth much fruit

The Principle of Restoration

Kingdom Principles Series

Scripture: Galatians 6:1-2
James 5:19-20

Introduction

The scripture is filled with accounts of human wreckage. There are always those who did not achieve the high expectations that others had for them. Their potential was wasted, their lives ruined.

God doesn't write people off as people write off their losses. Our text shows the heart of God toward those who have failed and fallen. He wants them restored.

I. The administrator of restoration

Galatians 6:1b ...ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness....

- A. God himself modeled the principle of restoration
 - 1. Man's estrangement from God by sin
 - 2. God's great plan of salvation enacted
 - 3. Man restored to fellowship with God--GRACE in action
- B. The one who restores
 - 1. The person of compassion
 - 2. The person of meekness
 - 3. The person of humility
 - 4. The person with a passionate love for other's souls

II. The candidate for restoration

Galatians 6:1a Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault....

James 5:19a Brethren, if any of you err from the truth....

- A. One overtaken in a fault
 - 1. Caught up in temptation
 - 2. Succumbed to temptation
 - 3. Sinned and fallen into disgrace
- B. One who has erred from the truth

- 1. In his theology
- 2. In his general practice of life

III. The magnitude of restoration

James 5:20 Let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

- A. The restoration of salvation
- B. The restoration of fellowship
- C. The restoration of the former office

The Alabaster Principle

Kingdom Principles Series

Scripture: Mark 14:3-9

Introduction

Every person's life has a special fragrance which God wishes to give to the world. That special fragrance is the fragrance of God's grace as exemplified in your life.

But the fragrance is confined in an "alabaster box" of our own dreams, wishes, ambitions, and desires. The "alabaster box" is a thing of beauty to us, cherished by us, and not something that we would want to see broken.

I. The precious fragrance of your life

John 12:3 Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

A. Your unique relationship to God

1. Unique background
 - a. Family
 - b. Past experiences
 - c. Sphere of influence
2. Unique salvation

B. A unique example of God's grace for others to see

1. Your life shows God's grace for others to see witnessed nowhere else
2. God wants to manifest this special example of his grace to others

II. The beautiful "alabaster box" which contains the fragrance

Matthew 26:7a Then came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment.

A. The "alabaster box" is the person that you are

1. Hopes
2. Dreams

3. Ambitions
 4. Desires
- B. Your "alabaster box" is especially beautiful to you
1. Your life
 2. Your personality
 3. Your possessions
- C. The "Alabaster box" is only a container for the real treasure

III. The freeing of the fragrance

Mark 14:3 And being in Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, as he sat at meat, there came a woman having an alabaster box of ointment of spikenard very precious; and SHE BRAKE THE BOX, and poured it on his head.

1 Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

A. The fragrance can be freed only if the alabaster box is broken

1. The destruction of the box releases the fragrance
2. The intact box cannot release the fragrance

B. The "alabaster principle" is the principle of submission

1. Taking our self out of God's way
2. Releasing our future to God
3. Trusting God with our everything