

Family TableTalk

Conversation 71

The Power of a Seed

read

Mark 4:26-29

think

Have you ever considered the power of a seed? We live in a world where most of us can travel a short distance to a grocery store or fruit stand, buy fruit or vegetables, and return home to enjoy something that was cultivated in dirt by someone else. We consume the fruit and toss the rest. Jesus wants his Disciples to understand that long before a harvest is collected, some faithful person scattered seed to begin a process that only God can oversee.

Last year, my family shared a garden with a friend. In the far corner of the garden, we put a small seed in the ground for a butternut squash. Butternut squash is like a crooked and funny looking pumpkin. We were shocked at what happened. Soon vines stretched through much of the small garden producing about sixty butternut squash. As I prepared one for dinner, I saw all the small seeds and decided to count just how many were in one butternut squash. I counted 160 seeds. 160 seeds multiplied by sixty butternut squash is 9,600 new plants that could be created. If each of those 9,600 seeds had been harvested and re-planted, a yield of 576,000 new butternut squash could be cultivated in just one generation. That's a lot of butternut squash!

Jesus knew the implications of sowing good seed. The harvest belongs to the Lord, but we, his faithful disciples, get to spend our lives sowing the seed of Gospel truth and love wherever we go.

apply

- What is a huge passion in your life today that began as a small attempt at something new?
- If the law of the harvest applies to all seed, what are the implications of sowing sinful seed into our lives and the lives of others?
- What is something we can do today to sow God's Word and Love into our own lives and our neighbor's life?

pray

God, we acknowledge the harvest of our life's work belongs to you. You have generously given us seed to scatter in our own lives and in the lives of others through your Word. Forgive us when we think the fruit belongs to us, forgive us when we let the good seed you've given us to spoil in our pouches because we choose to hoard rather than scatter, and forgive us where we have scattered sinful seed in our own hearts and in the lives of others. Give us eyes to see where your kingdom principles have produced good fruit in our lives. Give us grace each day to sow seeds of faith not only into our own hearts, but into the lives of our neighbors all around us. Let us experience the fullness of joy that comes from placing the harvests in our life at your feet. We pray in the matchless name of Jesus, Amen.

by Jason Mangrum

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