

This may come as a shock to some of you, not my wife, but sometimes, I'm not very wise. If some fertilizer is good, more fertilizer is better -no, too much destroys. So I've learned, I became a farmer, got into farming, for 1 year in my backyard. The crop wasn't too good. Images from seed packets invite us to believe it's easy; I can sow that. Life isn't like pictures. Know this well, the seed, His Word is not up to you or me to make it work.

In the parable about the Sower, the seed, Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of God. As we move farther, farther away from being an agricultural society, children less educated of farms, about where food comes from, how long before future preachers will have to explain what a seed is. But if you've never seen a seed sprout, it may actually add to the wonder of our Lord's story. What if you knew nothing about seeds, I handed you one, told you in a few decades it could possibly feed 1000 people? Doesn't sound possible. This sense of wonder we should have to the Word.

Our Lord, Sower and His Word goes out, so gracious for all to be saved, He seems wasteful. He is extravagant with His grace and forgiveness; that the growth of the Church through His Word is miraculous, God's work alone, for you. Soil itself has no life in it. This teaches of His grace alone to saved you. This parable is for us, for us who have the seed and warnings.

First: To not dwell in the Sower's Word to nourish faith, **hearing the Word**; to not be where the Sower is sowing proves harmful. To realize the devils constant attack upon you, trying to destroy you with seemingly reasonable ideas, to cause you to doubt the Lord's care, doubt His truth. Don't give in. Don't let the devil win.

Second: How often trials hurt faith; to remain steadfast no matter what; not shy away from confessing His truth even if we suffer ridicule and shame. Also a warning that to take the teaching of His kingdom and twist them to follow culture and man's ideas will destroy the life He gives. Trials can be very personal that lead to despair, indifference. Remain steadfast.

Third: We so often choose conveniences of this life rather than be different, live, act as His people. Do not live by your impulses. Who of us don't choke our faith, thorns, with cares of the world, riches, pleasures of life; so easily distracts from this Word; a day filled with so much gets in the way of God's Word, you can't seem to fit in a busy day, little time to prayer, think of God.

This parable, beware, on your guard; Jesus warning us, we can push away His life-saving Word. Repent. And let His Word accomplish His purpose in you. Cleansing, restoring you in His forgiveness. His great and holy work. The Word is power, it does what it says. Power beyond comprehension.

At the seminary, a great theologian would yell at us students, “you men neither know the Scriptures or the power therein.” He’s right. Oh that we all should not cease to know more of this precious Words that can declared dead people alive, the guilty innocent, water, bread, and wine as He says, declaring you His beloved heir of His kingdom. The precious Word, this Seed will change you, save you, sustain you every day. Likewise change, save, and sustain your children and your children’s children, your friends, your relatives, and anyone else God puts in your path.

Of course, Luther creates no new teaching; did not desire to break away from Rome. He thought, as we do as well, ‘I’ll show them the Scripture, the clear Word of God; they’ll have to believe, change their ways.’ Toward the end of Luther’s life, the Reformation had changed the world, not just the church; people had access to Bibles and teachings in their own language, after all Luther did and volumes upon volumes of writings, after so many things had taken place and even he and others survived the death penalty, risked their very life for God’s truth. When Luther was asked to reflect upon all he did, the world’s history now changed, said this.

“The Word did it all. Take me, for example. I opposed indulgences and all papists, but never by force. I simply taught, preached, wrote God's Word: otherwise I did nothing. And then, while I slept or drank Wittenberg beer with my friends Philip and Bugenhagen and Amsdorf, the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that never a prince or emperor did such damage to it. I did nothing: the Word did it all. I did nothing: I left it to the Word.”

The same goes for us here. Trust the sower, the seed. Thanks be to God its not up to us to save anyone, to convert people. You don’t make the seed work. The Word will work where, when He pleases. The work and the harvest is the Lord’s. What joy then, the privilege and opportunity is given you to share the seed. It is enough to simply speak the truth in love, engage others as opportunities come, simply invited people here. Just bask in forgiveness, His Word, live out your vocation.

At the end of the day, after all your work, my work, Luther, countless others. We only did our duty. Thanks be to God it is all His works. We leave it to the Word. Or else it isn’t grace. Even though it hurts and can keep us up at night when those we love reject this truth; the Lord will take care of things. And it will be well.

Treasure the seed. Hold it dear. His Word always accomplishes His great and holy work in you. His word is power, does what it says, as powerful today as one day when He said, **let there be light. This is my body.** The Sower and His seed. Always fulfills His good and gracious will for you.