

A Bountiful Harvest-Part 2

(Read Matthew 13:1-23)



After a field is plowed and made ready, the seeds can be planted. The seeds must be planted deep enough so they can have a safe environment to grow up (mature) but not too deep that it is a struggle for them to grow up and seek the sunlight. There also must be enough space between each seed so the roots can grow down deep enough without becoming entangled. In other words, each seedling must have enough space to grow individually yet still be close enough to benefit from one another. Sometimes, the seeds must be started somewhere else then transplanted.

Let us put this into perspective for ourselves. First, our hearts have to be ready to receive the teachings of our Lord. Once the field is ready, the seed (the Word of God) can be received. Most of what happens during our growing/maturing process occurs where no one can see, deep within us. The change takes place under the surface. The Lord, by His Holy Spirit, does the changing within us. We just have to be obedient and allow these changes to occur. Most people will not see what changes have taken place unless those changes (the seedling) begins to break the surface. Just as the seed needs space around it yet be close to another, we must take time ourselves to grow (reading the Word of God and come into relationship with our Lord) but still be a part of a fellowship to help us grow. Sometimes, we must be transplanted into a different environment to truly help us grow.

As with any seed, in order for the growth to continue and break through the surface, there must be water applied and sunlight.

1 Corinthians 3:5-8 - Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? 6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. 7 So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. 8 Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

God uses individuals to plant seeds within us and then sends another and another to help water those seeds. Space and time must be given to the individual for each seed planted to grow. As the seedling breaks through the surface, tender care must be given to not damage the young plant. The pressure of the watering cannot be too harsh. Any handling must be gentle and kind or the plant will be damaged. If the plant is damaged so will the roots be. If any major damage occurs, the process must be done all over. Just as preparing the field is a constant process each time new seeds are planted, so is the handling and caring for each new plant that emerges from under the soil.

This week, let us go to the Lord and seek Him on any place where we have mishandled newly emerging seedlings (within ourselves or others). Remember, we are all a part of God's garden.

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