

The Fruitful Life

Today's Reading Mark 4:1-20

Some departments at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center (OARDC) focus on factors that contribute to the maximum corn harvest from every single corn kernel. That's really the purpose behind the corn kernel. It exists to produce more than a plant. Even if the stalks reach a skyscraping 10 feet in the air, that isn't really seed's purpose. The seed is designed to produce a harvest!

The parallel between agricultural harvest and the fruitfulness of your life is not something that I made up. Jesus recognized that parallel 2000 years ago and He expressed His concern about your fruitfulness in today's parable. He wants your life to produce fruit like love, joy, patience, and self-control (Gal. 5:21, 22). He wants you to bear the fruit of a bold witness to others (1 Cor. 3:5-9). It is His desire that your life demonstrates the fruit of good works that serve others (Eph. 2:10). But, of the four sowing scenarios Jesus described, only one produced fruit.

Let's get to the bottom line of harvest principles Jesus taught here. Once you understand the seed is like the word of God and the soil represents the nature of your life, you can conclude:

- In order to produce fruit, the seed has to penetrate the soil. Are you exposing yourself regularly to the truths of Scripture?
- In order to produce fruit, the plant must withstand a variety of opposing forces. The threat of persecution, challenge of trials, and temptations of life are real! Don't wave the white flag when those things happen.
- In order to produce fruit, you have to hear and accept the Word of God. In other words, you need to not only come in contact with the Scriptures, you must also incorporate it into the very fabric of your life, allowing it to have the final say in how your life is lived.

Apply yourself to the Word of God so that your life will be fruitful.