

Faith Outreach Christian Life Center
Hephzibah, Georgia
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Maximizing the Seed

Introduction: This lesson is designed to help the members of FOCLC realize the benefits of receiving the Word of God – that incorruptible seed – and loosing that same seed into the lives of others. God gets the glory, we get the benefits!

Foundational Scripture: (1 Pet 1:23) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

The Lord through our Pastor spoke a mighty Word on Sunday on “How to Receive the Word of God.” Understanding that the Word of God is an incorruptible seed, whereby men are Born-Again.

Tonight we are going to look at what we should do with the seed – the Word of God – after we receive it. We will learn how to *Maximize the seed* in our lives.

God expects a return on His Investment:

(Luke 13:6-9 KJV) He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

Understanding the parable:

1. Where do fig trees grow? Orchards not vineyards. Grapes grow in vineyards.
2. The Fig Tree was planted – by the owner of the vineyard – for a purpose.
3. The environment of the tree did not change its identity. The text still refers to the tree as a “Fig” tree, not a vine.
4. The environment of the tree did not change the expectations of the owner. He still expected Figs!
5. The ineffectiveness of the tree caused the owner to want to cut His losses.
6. The tree had an intercessor with the owner – the dresser of the tree.
7. The intercessor asked for 1 more year to do two things:
 - o Dig it
 - o Dung it

Players in the text:

Man -- God
Fig Tree -- (really Israel), but for tonight, US
Dresser -- Jesus
Vineyard -- Our Present Environment

Last week the Lord through our Pastor taught Part II of “It’s only a test.” He taught us how God is only going to test the Word that he has given you. He will not test you without applying the test to the Word you possess. *“Whatever God expects you to do, He equips you to do. But whatever God expects you to do, He expects you to do!”*

God will test the Word – the seed – that He has planted in your life. Why? Because He wants you to *Maximize the seed*. The end of the seed is **IN** the seed.

(Gen 1:11 KJV) And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

Now don't miss this, "**whose seed is in itself.**"

- There is a tree inside the seed.
- There is a seed inside the fruit.
- The fruit is a product of the growth of the tree.

1. God created the tree with fruit:

- Fruit trees produce fruit.
- The fruit from a fruit tree is not for itself.
- The figs are a by-product of the growth and nourishment of the tree, but the tree cannot eat the figs.
- Figs from a fig tree can either (1) bless a human that eats it or (2) fall to the ground to produce more trees.
- **Application:** God has blessed us, but not just for us. We must not be so selfish as to neglect to produce fruit in the earth. We are blessed to be a blessing to someone else, who can in turn bring forth more fruit.

2. The fruit contains seed and the seed contains more trees:

- God placed the seed of the tree in the fruit.
- A fruit tree that does not produce fruit will never produce more trees.
- A fruitless fruit tree can look strong, tall, and full of leaves, but it has no legacy; because it failed to reproduce the seed that it received to create itself.
- The true prosperity of the tree comes when the tree produces fruit for others to enjoy and for the reproduction of more trees.
- **Application:**
 - Pastor and Co-Pastor teach the Word of God.
 - The Word of God is an incorruptible seed, whereby men are Born-Again.
 - We can apply that Word to our lives and prosper.
 - According to **Ps 35:27**, we know that God takes pleasure in the prosperity of His servants.
 - We receive the Word for healing, restoration, peace, finances, etc.
 - We become tall, strong, anointed, trees – full of leaves.
 - The problem with this picture is that God never intended for us to be shade trees, but rather fruit trees. God wants us to produce the fruit that will loose the see into the lives of others.
 - If we take the Seed of the Word of God and use it JUST FOR US, we are selfish and self-serving.

God gave apple trees, apples. God placed apple seeds inside of the apples. God also placed more apple trees inside of the apple seeds. **The legacy of the apple tree is inside of the apple seed.** When sown into the ground, it will produce more trees and a tremendous harvest. Our legacy is locked up inside of us. **God placed everything we needed to flourish "in" us, but we will never unlock our destiny and loose our legacy until we let it go and sow it into the lives of others.** God did not bless us just for us. Thank God for the seed He placed in you, but make a conscious effort today to sow a seed into the life of someone else. You hold someone else's destiny inside of you. **Don't die without letting it out! Maximize the Seed of the Word of God, by loosing and sowing that seed into the lives of others!**

Don't believe me, let's look at Adam.

(Gen 1:28 KJV) And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth..

The key here are the words, “**be fruitful.**”

Adam had the seed in Him already and Eve had the eggs in her. They had everything they needed “**in**” them for reproduction. God commanded them to do something – **replenish the earth** – *remember that what God expects you to do, He equips you to do!* They were already equipped with the seed required to become fruitful. What was their part? This is the key; **they had to loose the seed to be fruitful!**

If you have been a member of FOCLC for any amount of time, you have some SEED in you. Pastor is going to teach us, PART II, of how to receive that Word (seed) on Sunday. We can receive that Word and apply it to our lives, but that is only part of the equation.

Our Vision is to identify, win and train brothers and sisters of all nationalities and denominations into one body of Christ, who in turn will carry the ministry of this church into all the world.

The vision of this house is not just for us to drive nice cars and live in nice homes. For us to be healed, healthy, blessed, and prosperous in every area of our lives. That it good -- but what about the Great Commission? If you are a member of FOCLC, then YOUR VISION tells you that you should **carry the ministry of this church into all the world!**

What if Adam had said, “*Hey God, I like my body and I like my wife. We are healthy and we have it ‘going on.’ I think I am just going to enjoy my existence and my position in the earth.*” **Adam would have still been Adam, but his legacy and our destiny were locked up in His seed.** God had already given Him the seed and then instructed Him to be fruitful by loosing the seed into Eve.

OK Brother Piña, I understand that whole seed thing with Adam, but God placed the seed in Adam. **How does God place the Word in us?** Let’s check it out:

(Rom 12:3 KJV) For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Understand that God deals every man ‘some’ measure of faith. *God then sends His servants to increase that faith by sowing the seed of the Word of God!*

(Rom 10:13-17 KJV) For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

(John 6:44 KJV) No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

So we can see that God sends the preachers to preach the Word and to sow the seed. The also draws us through the Power of the Holy Spirit. But what if those that He sends refuse to Go? This brings us back to Luke 13:6-9:

Our Vision is to identify, win and train brothers and sisters of all nationalities and denominations into one body of Christ, who in turn will carry the ministry of this church into all the world.

(Luke 13:6-9 KJV) He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

1. This Fig tree was 'planted' by the owner in His vineyard.
2. The Fig tree refused to bring forth fruit because it did not like the environment.
3. The purpose of the Fig tree was not to like the vineyard, but rather to create an orchard in the vineyard. The Jews were supposed to be a Kingdom of Priest (Ex 19:6).
4. We are supposed to loose the seed, but loosing fruit in our environment. If the people in our office are not saved, GREAT, Loose some fruit and Maximize the seed. Create an orchard is God placed you in a Vineyard.
5. Don't be selfish by keeping the fruit to yourself and think that God is not looking.
6. He came three years, but He did not say anything the first two years. Question: How many times has God checked on you and found you full of leaves, but NO FRUIT?
7. What is the purpose of Discipleship if not Evangelism?
8. What is the purpose of coming in HERE, if not to GO out THERE?
9. Thank God for Jesus, the intercessor. He saved the tree from being cut down by saying that He would do two things:
 - o Dig it: If you are unproductive, Jesus will have to come and break up the fallow ground in your life. You may not like this process.
 - o Dung it: This is a process of fertilizing the tree. The problem is that dung "STINKS." Remember that God will TEST the Word He has placed in You. You may not like the way it smells, but it is for your good. You might as well LOOSE THE SEED, and end the test.
10. If after Jesus does His work, you still refuse to produce fruit, the text says that the owner will cut you down.
11. We can still find hope because a tree that it cuts down still has roots. As long as it is not rooted up, it can still come back.

(Jer 18:4 KJV) And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

The Potter smashed up the clay, but Praise God, that it was still on the wheel!

So what's the Bottom Line?

1. The Word of God is an incorruptible seed.
2. We have that seed in our lives.
3. That seed blesses us to bring about a change in us.
4. We should honor God by not keeping the seed to ourselves.
5. We know too much about the Goodness of God not to share that Goodness with a dying and decaying world.
6. Our legacy is tied to our seed. When we loose the seed, God will Maximize the seed, and produce a harvest.
7. Souls will be saved, burdens will be removed, yokes will be destroyed, and lives will be changed!
8. God will get the glory and we will reap the benefits!

What good is seed in the hands of the Sower?