

## We are the Wheat – God is the Farmer!

Jesus and the writers of the New Testament very often referred to believers as “*God’s wheat field,*” (or vineyard) – and we are growing until the harvest time, where our produce will be examined and inspected for use.

Jesus is pictured as the “*Sower*”, (or *Planter*), of God’s seed – first the “*seed of the Word of Salvation,*” -- by the power of the Holy Spirit -- after which, He sows the “*seed of the Word of the Kingdom.*”

The analogy of our Christian life and a field of grain, ripening, are very apparent and made clear in God’s Word.

Seed, even good seed, cannot bring forth fruitfulness unless it has good soil to grow and develop in.

It takes seed and soil to bring a harvest!

As we saw in our last lesson, the soil Jesus, and the New Testament writers, speaks of is the *heart* of the individual. We looked at the four kinds of heart-soil Jesus gives in His parable in Matthew 13 and Luke 8.

The “*seed*” is the Word of God – The Word of *Salvation* to the sinner – and – the Word of the *Kingdom* to the believer. The life of the “*seed*” -- and its ability to produce -- (whether thirty-fold, forty-fold – fifty-fold, or one hundred-fold) -- depends upon the different kinds of soul the seed falls upon.

The individual always has a choice in the matter. The sinner can accept or reject the seed of “*the Word of salvation*” -- and the believer can decide what kind of ground his heart-soil will be for the seed of “*the Word of the Kingdom*” – ***the choice is up to us!***

The declaration that Joshua made in Joshua 24:15, “*Choose you this day whom you will serve,*” is most appropriate to us each day – each moment – of our life! It is a choice that we must make day by day – yea, moment by moment!

What kind of heart-soil are we giving to the Word of God?

When we listened to the voice of the Holy Spirit giving to us the word of the Gospel of salvation and we accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, we received the New Birth experience-- not just so we would not go to hell when we died -- but God had a plan and a purpose for our life. So many Christians see nothing more to their salvation besides getting saved -- then just waiting either for death or for Christ’s return. Therefore, as a result, they have no incentive or vision for growing and developing in their Christian life.

When the believer accepts Christ as Lord, Scripture likens him to a field of God’s planting, where He desires *willing* surrender to His divine plan and purpose will produce a glorious crop of righteousness within the Christian’s life.

While Isaiah 60:21 refers primarily to Israel and God's promised blessing to her in the future, it certainly has a spiritual application to us in this Church Age. It states, "Thy people also ***shall be all righteous . . . the branch of My planting***, the work of My hands, ***that I may be glorified.***" And 61:3, that follow closely after, that states, "To give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that ***they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD***, that He might be glorified."

God's Word gives the picture again and again of the Christian life as "*the planting of the Lord*" to produce His righteousness – [The Sermon on the Mount Jesus gives instructions on how to produce God's righteousness in our life]. In John 15:1-5 we see the portrait of God, the Father as the Husbandman, Jesus as the Vine and believers as branches of the Vine.

It is important that we get this picture in our mind.

The farmer knows that he cannot grow something out of nothing, so he, with expectation of a fruitful crop, begins by preparing the field by plowing and furrowing it. He add whatever ingredients are necessary (fertilizer, etc.) He prepares the ground for planting- marks out the rows where the seed is to be planted. He provides row after row of holes where the seed s are to go. He plants the kernels of grain in the field.

After he has done all that is necessary for planting, he then waits on God to give life to the seed -- to send the sun and the rain. The farmer realizes that he cannot do these things - that there is a part for him to do and a part for God to do, if there is ever to be a successful harvest.

After a week or two he will have to weed. God does not kill the weeds -- the farmer has to somehow pulls up or cut down the weeds himself.

In our Christian life there are some "*weeds*" that we need to get rid of - if we are to allow the seed to grow. Jesus calls these weeds, "*the care of this world -- the deceitfulness of riches -- and -- the lusts of other things*" (Matthew 13:22 & Luke 4:19). For the seed to have full use of the ground to grow, the weeds must be taken care of! There are some things in our life that God asks us to do - He gives us the strength and the resources, but we must obey His commands - and take care of the weeds in our life to make room for "*the word of His Kingdom.*"

When spring and summer have past, it's time to learn what the harvest will bring forth. The farmer goes out into the field -- however, now he enters for a different purpose now! It is not to do what is necessary for the seed to grow. It has already been planted, watched over and fertilized for one purpose, to produce fruit. Now the farmer is in the field ***to reap the harvest.***

Are you ready for the Harvest?

We live in God's field for only one purpose – to prepare for harvest and to be ready for the coming of *"the Son of Man with His sickle in His hand"* (Revelation 14:14).

The same farmer that planted and watched over the grain is now there for one purpose – the gather the harvest.

Can you use your imagination for a moment? What if the grain could talk? Can you imagine it saying, *"I'm not ready to be harvested? I didn't expect you so soon. I was going to allow the ingredients around me to bring me to full maturity. I need more time."*

But the growing time is over and now it's harvest time. The moment the *"cutter"* hits the stock it is sent in a mold that cannot be changed, nothing can be add now. While in the shock, the fruit could mature -- but, all it can do now is wait for the harvest where it will be revealed just how much it matured.

That's how it will be for the death – or the Rapture of the believer. They will be removed from the field of growth and development, and from all the power and ability to change. This present life offers us a better place than Paradise as far as growth and labor for God.

We are presently planted in the fruitful hill of Calvary, living under the rain of the Holy Spirit, and all that God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit has lies at our disposal while we are in this *present* life, but not after we are removed by the hand of the Reaper.

At the moment of death, or the Rapture -- our physical body will be immediately changed, made *"immortal"* -- however, our spiritual character - (that is to be changed in this present life) -- will stand, as is, before the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The husk of the corn – or outer shell of wheat – is only a *"covering"* for the life of the fruit within! The outer shell is removed so the inner life can be used. This body of flesh of ours is only a *"husk,"* or outer *"shell."* It's only a house we live inside. No one really sees us, except God. We look out our windows, or eyes, and see other people and things – when we want to, or we can *"pull down the blinds."* I talk out a door called our mouth, but we can shut the door with our ivories and not say a thing, if we choose to do so. The roof of our house may turn while – or fall off. The foundation stones (our feet) move us around. We may have to hold some of the parts of our house in place -- and may be bulging in the middle -- but that's not really us. The joints of our house may squeak now and then, but that's not really us anyway!

Paul said, *"Though my outer house perish day by day, the inner man is getting stronger every day"* (2 Corinthians 4:16). This is the person who will be revealed at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

The question we each need to ask our self is, *"Would I be ashamed if my husk was taken off by God and my heart, my real self as God knows me, was revealed?"*

Let's use our imagination once more. What if the grain said, *"I'm not ashamed, remove my husk and you find full growth and development!"*

The Apostle Paul said near the end of his life, *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Paul -- or the Holy Spirit through Paul's writings -- is referring to the time of revealing the inner man -- at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

James spoke of the same event in James 5:7-9, *“Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, **until he receive the early and latter rain.** Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord **draweth nigh.** Grudge not one against another, **brethren,** lest ye be condemned: behold, the **judge standeth before the door.**”*

James speaks of this after he has spoken of the “*last day*” sign of the struggle between capital and labor (verses 1-3). God warns His children to watch out lest their hearts be affected by these unjust conditions and cause trouble between brethren, as it has in many places today. Christians are fighting for natural rights and benefits to the body, at the cost of their spiritual life and soul.

God tells us in this passage to be PATIENT until the Lord comes, who will, when He comes, give us -- for once in our life -- our just dues or full reward according to our own labor and works. James writes that Jesus did not come as soon as some thought, and they were to have “*Long Patience of God,*” who is waiting for the field to prepare for harvest, because once the sickle has been put into the field, growing time is over.

The last thing that God, as Husbandman, has to give is to this field -- *just before Christ's return* -- to bring growth and development to it -- is the LATTER RAIN -- the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

God gave the EARLY rain as the Church Age began, on the Day of Pentecost, as Peter tells us in the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts. Now for the last several years God has poured out the LATTER rain -- the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit -- *the last thing heaven has to give to bring development for the Harvest!*

If we, as believers, will not grow and prepare for God's harvest under the ministry of the Holy Spirit, God has no other gift for us. The Holy Spirit is able to do, in this present life, some things that should help get every Christian ready for the coming harvest -- if we will but let Him!

Will you not yield to Him now?

Look at Luke 13:6-9, *“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? -- [Other translations render, “rob the soil,” or “waste of 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.”*

The lesson is that Christ, because of His interest and love for us in attempting to bring forth fruit to glorify His Father, “*digs around our roots*” -- “*give us the necessary ingredients*” to get us to bring forth fruit in God’s acceptable time.

Will we not yield to His plan and purpose for our life?

Scripture tells us that the LATTER rain can fall on our heart soil today, if we will only ask for it.

*Zechariah 10:1, “Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain; so the LORD shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain, to every one grass in the field.*

As one of God’s children, we can have a *latter-rain-shower* from God’s bright clouds just any time we are earnest enough to ask the Lord. We are told to “*ask the Lord in the time of the latter rain*” -- that’s in this day and age -- and we can receive our own personal shower of the Holy Spirit to ripen us for harvest. And God will **also** give us some grass in your own field!

Hallelujah!