

Input Output

[Mar 4:21-34 ESV] 21 And he said to them, "Is a lamp brought in to be put under a basket, or under a bed, and not on a stand? 22 For nothing is hidden except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret except to come to light. 23 If anyone has ears to hear, let him hear." 24 And he said to them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. 25 For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." 26 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. 28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come." 30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." 33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

I. Intro

- A. 30 day Challenge recap and renewal
- B. Live as a witness
- C. All of what we will read today is a reminder of the importance of being mindful of our sentness.
 1. You and I are sent by Holy God to take His message to the world
 2. This is a mindset, and a practice.
- D. The context of these parables, and the parable of the 4 soils, is that discipleship produces a harvest.
- E. The harvest has several layers:
 1. Layer 1: discipleship produces the fruit of the Spirit
 2. Layer 2: The Fruit of the Spirit impacts the way we live our lives
 3. Layer 3: The way we live our lives has its effect on others
- F. The Fruit of the Spirit and the Active Yielding of the believer will continue to make a difference.
- G. These are Parables of Action
 1. Action should produce results
 2. Paul warns against this
 3. [1Co 9:24-27 ESV] 24 Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. 25 Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. 26 So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. 27 But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.
- H. Input/Output
 1. What God is putting into you will also come out
 2. This is a paradigm shift for many, because trying hard enough will never produce discipleship.

II. Text

- A. A Lamp
 1. A Lamp produces light
 2. Light produces energy, heat, and dispels darkness
 3. A Light will do its work, and there is nothing the darkness can do about it.
 4. The purpose of the lamp is to cast light that dispels darkness.
- B. A Seed Growing

1. The growing seed has a process
2. The farmer can't fully understand the process, but participates in the planting
3. A small hard piece of organic material grows to become something complex and productive:
 - a) Plants use nutrients from the soil, and add nutrients to the soil
 - b) A seed in the ground eventually opens up and sends roots into the soil and sprouts of green above ground...how does it know?
 - c) The continued growth is in stages, but eventually a harvest is produced
4. The purpose of the plant is to produce a harvest, and the farmer can't do that work.

C. The Mustard Seed

1. The small seed produces a large plant
2. A little measure of faith produces a growing and thriving life
3. The purpose of the little mustard seed is to grow into a large plant and produce more mustard seed...a harvest.

III. Point:

A. Your Life as a Disciple will Produce a Harvest

1. Only one point this week:
 - a) There is a big transition in the teaching coming in the next stories, so we are reminded of the big truth Jesus has been communicating
 - b) As you commit your ways to the Lord, He produces HIS ATTRIBUTES in your life.
2. Living as a disciple produces light
 - a) Darkness is the absence of Light, Light comes from a source
 - b) The spiritual reality is that light will penetrate darkness in our lives and in our world.
 - c) We let our light shine before all men, that they see who we really are.
3. Living as a disciple produces growth
 - a) The Farmer can't make the seed grow, he can only plant, water, and cultivate
 - b) God designed the seed so it would grow and produce fruit, and the Spiritual reality is the same for us.
4. Living as a disciple has large results
 - a) A small seed can grow to produce a large plant.
 - b) This is something God does in our small amount of faith and the produce is miraculous.
 - c) That which has insignificant and weak beginnings can transform to something large and useful under the comprehensive plan of God.

B. What I hope we have learned:

1. Spiritual discipline is a mindset
 - a) [Phl 2:5-8 ESV] 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
2. Spiritual Investment produces fruit
 - a) [Gal 6:7-8 ESV] 7 Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. 8 For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.
3. God will meet you as you lean in.
 - a) [Jas 4:7-8 ESV] 7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.
4. The struggle is worth it

- a) [Mat 11:28-30 ESV] 28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."
- 5. 30 days is just a beginning.
 - a) I hope you have learned that investing in your spiritual journey is a practice that takes intentionality.
 - b) I hope you are more convinced that relationship with Holy God is worth it
 - c) I hope God has identified areas of your life that need some work
 - d) I hope you have found joy in the growth process
 - e) I hope you recognize this basic spiritual absolute: If you are a follower of Christ, God will bring about a fruitful harvest in you.

IV. Close

- A. God has put HIS SPIRIT in you life you are a believer
- B. This is where your life begins a transformation
- C. What God PUTS IN, WILL COME OUT in beautiful and challenging ministry.