



Empowering People to Change the World

The Secret to Exponential Increase in Your Life Part 2

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Matthew 13:1-23

Reopening of The Road! Exciting time for all of us. Next week I want to share about the fresh vision God has given us.

Report on Pastor's Gathering this week.

I am growing to love Jesus with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength

I am growing to love people the way Jesus loves them

I am building up my faith with God's Holy Word

I am coming alive in the power of the Holy Spirit

With Jesus, all things are possible

Jesus is radically changing His strategy in dealing with the Pharisees and Scribes from now on out. He quits being obvious and begins to teach cryptically in parables. He is directly trying to be confusing to those who don't really want to understand Him.

Teaching in Parables

- He begins to teach in Parables: para or alongside; ballo-cast or throw.
- He is come along some truth and cast it alongside something. It is designed to take a spiritual truth cast alongside natural truth.
- Truth either conceals or reveals.

This is the Great Parable. Of the 40 parables that Jesus told, He says that this one is the most important and key to understanding all the others!

- Mark 4:13** *“Do you not understand this parable? How then will you understand all the parables?”*
- Listen carefully, open up your heart right now, get ready.
- What I'm about to share with you, if you get it, will radicalize your life!

- He is using an agrarian illustration that everyone would have understood.
- Last week, and you really must hear what I said last week to understand what I'm saying this week, I covered a few key principles that can revolutionize your life and thinking.

Matthew 13:3-23

Vss. 8, 23 Last week, Exponential Growth is growth whose rate becomes ever more rapid in proportion to the growing total number or size. It's an explosion of growth.

- For example, during a pathology test in the hospital, a pathologist follows the concept of exponential growth to grow the microorganism extracted from the sample. Microbes grow at a fast rate when they are provided with unlimited resources and a suitable environment.
 - Exponential Growth needs unlimited resources in a suitable environment!
 - The Word of God, the Kingdom of God, has given us unlimited resources; the question becomes a suitable environment.
- The Miracle of Compounding Interest Compound interest is the addition of interest to the principal amount of a loan or deposit, or in simpler words, interest on interest.
 - This parable is the secret to a life of Exponential Impact,
 - The secret to Increase in your spiritual life,
 - The secret to Increase mentally, emotionally, even financially.

Last week, the key point was that the seed is the Word of God!

- Everything in life comes from a seed. Every plant, tree, animal, even you came from a seed.
- The potential is in the Word—not in you and me.

- The Kingdom of God works on the seed of the Word as in 1 Peter 1:23. The Word of God is the sperm. Take the seed and plant it.

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God.
(1 Peter 1:23 NIV)

- God has given us the Kingdom Principle of “Seedtime and Harvest.”
Genesis 8:22
“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease.”
- Any seed planted in good soil will reproduce of the same kind!

Genesis 1:11, 12, 20-27 be fruitful and multiply “according to its kind”
This is exponential growth!

- What you seed, you get! If you seed anger, jealousy, and strife, that is what you will harvest.
- But if you seed righteousness, peace and joy, then that is what you will harvest.
- Here is the key point: **YOU WILL HARVEST THE DNA OF THE SEED YOU PLANT.**

But our passage gives us 4 kinds of soils and tells us that these soils represent people’s hearts, 4 soils of the heart.

My Focus is on what kind of heart - **WHAT KIND OF SOIL** we need to have in order to experience God’s exponential increase from The Seed.

- **Key point:** What you focus on is what will dominate you!
- Anything that dominates you more than God, will develop a hardened heart.

- If you are focused on God’s Word and His promises, you will have an increase of 30-60-100 fold.
- If you are focused on your problems, your struggles primarily, then you will have a zero fold increase.
- **Isaiah 26:3 *You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.***

- It took about 60 pounds of seed to seed an acre of ground. In an average one acre of ground had about a ton and a half of weeds produced. Have you noticed that you don’t have to plant for weeds? Don’t you just wish you could throw weed seeds and then tomatoes would just come up? It Does not work that way.

Four Types of Soil/Heart

Matthew 13:4, 19

⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them.

¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, then the wicked one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

The Hardened Heart

- “By the wayside” These are the well-trodden paths, the ways of this world; the ways of the kingdom of the earth.
- The hardened heart—well worn by many who travel this way.
- This is the path handed to them on the “World’s Menu.”
- Notice that Satan is not indifferent to the Word of God. Satan understands the potential in the Word.

- Their focus is on the values, vision, and ways of this world. They are dominated by that. They think they are being open-minded. But they fail to understand that there are two kingdoms. Satan is the one who fashions the music of this world, the movies, the ways.
- The bait of Satan comes and baits you; with the sex, drugs, worry, fear. This world gives you a MENU. You order from that menu and Satan comes and snatches away the word of the kingdom.

Matthew 13:5-6, 20,21

⁵ Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. ⁶ But when the sun was up they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away.

²⁰ But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

The Stony Heart

- It seems to be joyful and it seems to be growing. But they don't have any depth. They are pumped and excited about the retreat.
- This heart has too many stones! The stones of bitterness; the stones of lust; the stones of jealousy; the stones of unforgiveness.
- If you have this many stones, then the seed can't grow and multiply.
- I know many people like this. They just can't stay focused on God, His Word, His kingdom!
- You talk to them and its always about their problems: another addiction, another marriage, another person they want to blame for their problems.

- Instead of taking their problems to the Lord, studying His Word, being empowered with the Spirit, they focus on all the stones and never develop their soil.
- So, every time tribulation comes, pressure comes, or some mild form of persecution, they fold, they stumble!

Matthew 13:7, 22

⁷ And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them.

²² Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

The Crowded Heart

- Watch this one! This is the one we struggle with the most as christians.
- We get so crowded with so many things. We have a great service on Sunday and then we get back into our jobs and we get a flat tire or we get in an accident or we miss a key appointment and before you know it, we are frustrated and angry.
- We get so crowded in our thoughts. Our focus is crowded with stuff and it starts to dominate us.
- ***“he becomes unfruitful”*** It seems that he/she once was fruitful. But now is the desires of worldly things takes over.
 - Cares of this world. In contrast to the world to come. There is another age coming folks. Cares means to be distracted or pulled in different directions. Cares of this present age.
 - Deceitfulness of riches. Doesn't say riches but the deceitfulness of riches. Deceitfulness means “To lie to, to cheat, to embezzle.”

- Abraham was wealthy, Daniel was wealthy, David was wealthy. It's "the love of money" that is the root of all evil. It's not money but the love of it.
- Money and riches are a GREAT TOOL against Satan! There are millionaires who are being mightily used by God. Deuteronomy says some have been given the ability to make money to get wealth, others have not.
- Deceitfulness of riches. False security; there is false peace if you think you'll be happy through riches. Look at Hollywood, sports figures, these guys who have all these problems.
- A wealthy man is not the man who has the most, but the man who needs the least!
- Granted everything changes when you get married...the issue is contentment.
- We are the rich of this world! Most of the world lives on less than \$100 per year.

Matthew 13: 8; 23

⁸ But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

²³ But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

**"Good ground" can be translated "beautiful"
This is the Beautiful Heart**

Isaiah 55:9-11 says,

***"For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.***

***¹⁰ “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,
¹¹ So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.***

**Jeremiah 23:28-29 says,
“The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream;
And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully.
What is the chaff to the wheat?” says the Lord.
²⁹ “Is not My word like a fire?” says the Lord,
“And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?”**

Hebrews 4:12

¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- Your potential is in the potential of the Word!
- What you focus on will dominate you! READ THIS BOOK!
- You have to put your mind on God and His Word: if you are more focused on what the banker says, the news says, it will dominate you! Most spend more time on the natural realm than the supernatural realm.
- If you focus on the negative, it will dominate you! You have to focus on the positive, the supernatural, the Word of God

We are in a War between our Ears!

2 Corinthians 10:3-5

³ For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. ⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, ⁵ casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,

- We are in a war! Satan and demons hate you. He wants to destroy you. But we have weapons.

- We can overcome him. **Mighty** for what? Mighty to cast down imaginations, high things (thoughts). It is about our thought life. It is all up here; In your head! The battle is in the mind.
 - Whatever you focus on you will get an abundance of that.
 - These weapons cast down “imaginations” - this is a strong force.
 - “Imaginations” or your ability to see things with your heart.
 - If I asked you how many windows are in your bedroom, you have counted them but you can imagine it and see it.
 - If the doctor says you have cancer...you start seeing yourself dying. Self-fulfilling prophecy. But you could see yourself as rising up and being healed.
 - You can see past your immediate problem: focus on the fence or the field.
 - Your imagination can be either used positively or negatively.
 - “every thought to obedience to Christ”
 - **Philippians 3:13**

¹³ Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

No one does this perfectly. It's something we are striving for. But we have the weapons to fight with.

- You have to take your thoughts captive!