

WITH BOLD NEW DECISIONS GOD'S PEOPLE ARISE

Dr. Fred Fourie ~Sunday, May 7, 2006



The Parable of the Sower

[Matthew 13:1-9](#)

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow ~ and as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!"

[Matthew 13:18-23](#)

"Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

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Last Sunday **was**, and I believe, will always remain a red-letter day for our Church. Clearly, we accepted the challenges that became obvious **when we dared to dream dreams** and expressed our plans and hopes for the future. We have now entered a phase where we have done the talking **and are ready to turn our bold new decisions into bold new deeds for the Kingdom of God.**

Many great undertakings and huge success stories begin with vision. Our **visions** shape us. Our **visions** control us. Our **visions** are determining factors in who and what we become. Likewise, **visions** shape the nations, movements, institutions, and the Church of Jesus Christ. Our **visions** determine our interests, our directions, our finances, and affect the totality of the human experience. **They who can see the invisible can do the impossible!** The **vision** of God's power moved and inspired the first Christians. Christianity emerged because a few devout people were converted from "dead-living" to a God-centered and empowered vision to claim territory for the Prince of Peace. **"One person with conviction is worth more than one hundred with only an interest."**

Well, truth is that it does not always happen that way. I trust that our experience will

differ from that of a certain ambitious business-owner who decided to inspire the people working for him. He had **posters printed** that, with large letters, read, "**The future is yours. Do it now!**" every office, every space, big and small had a poster on the wall. "**The future is yours, do it now!**" Some time later, a friend asked him how his people reacted. He shook his head in disgust. "**I wish you hadn't asked. I advised them to do it now and they really did!**" The cashier disappeared with \$10,000, the Head Accountant ran away with the best secretary I ever had. Three typists asked for a raise. The factory workers voted to go on strike and the **office messenger joined the Navy!**

Then, a vision must always be under control and must not move faster than we possibly can. There is the cartoon showing a little boy attempting to lead a huge Saint Bernard dog on a leash. The dog was dragging the boy along behind and obviously in a direction different from which the boy wanted to go. The young fellow was bracing his feet and angrily shouting to the dog, "**Let's get this straight! You are my dog. I am not your boy!**"

The crucial ingredient in achieving our dreams is **confidence**. Some people keep their dreams bottled up inside. They **would** make a difference. They **would** right wrongs, create beauty; make the world a better place to live. But, something holds them back. **It takes a lot of courage to show your dream to someone else.** They might laugh. They might not understand. Dreams are fragile, you know. Some people in desperation give up on dreams...

Where do you get the **courage** to reach for your dreams? **For many of us, it comes from our faith in God.** In today's scripture, Jesus tells a story about a small percentage of a certain sower's seed that fell on good ground. He explains it this way, "**But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.**"

Jesus was echoing the words of the prophet Jeremiah, "**Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.**"

We believe that God has given us everything we need to achieve our dreams. He has called us to live and reach for the fullness that only Christ can give. **Following our visions, hopes and dreams!** No longer bottling up our ambitions, but achieving all God has given us the opportunity to achieve. Dare to dream it --- and then do it!

Catch the Excitement!  
Witness the Joy!  
Shape the Vision!

There is a strong, personal and inspiring message when God's people gather to celebrate the Table of the Lord, as we did today. **You may recall the biblical story of the two sad, disappointed and dejected people who went back to their hometown, Emmaus, shortly after the crucifixion of Jesus.** Their hopes were shattered, their vision died and the future was bleak. Then something happened. **The bible says that a stranger walked with them, and talked with them and explained scripture to them. Yet it was all words. Only words!** It was only a little later, while they were eating, that they recognized the stranger "**in the breaking of the bread**" It was in the breaking of the bread that they realized and remembered the

promise of Jesus, to be with them until the end of time. In a moment, their sadness was gone and the Bible says that they turned around and went back to Jerusalem where their mission and vision was. At the table of the Lord, even today, [we still recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread!](#)

**You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.  
From the bondage of sorrow, the captives dream dreams  
Our women see visions, our men clear their eyes  
With bold new decisions, God's people arise!**

**AMEN**