

MUCH CAN COME FROM LITTLE

Dr. Fred Fourie ~Communion ~ Sunday, June 3, 2007



Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23: 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!" **"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 hundred fold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

A little fellow put on his application for a lumberjack's job that he had learned his trade in the "Sahara Forest". The employment manager said with a smile, "You mean the Sahara Desert?" The little man stuck out his chest and said: "Sure, now it is." This man got the job he wanted because he found a way to tell the manager something about himself. Not that he could really turn a forest into a desert, obviously he could not. Nevertheless, the manager got the message that he had the correct attitude for the advertised job! Much in our lives depends on our attitude!

The parables of Jesus communicate in the same way. Jesus wants to teach us something about life, about the Kingdom of God, about Himself. To do this He tells a story, vivid and understandable. He then invites us to consider how life is like His story in some way. The power of parables is in the connection that our imaginations draw between Jesus' story and our reality.

Jesus told the story of the Sower, leaving it to us to discover its deepest meaning. It reminded me of the woman who had a dream wherein she was walking into a brand-new shop. Much to her surprise, she saw a man, fitting her image of Jesus, working behind the counter. She asked him, "What do you sell here?" "Everything your heart desires," the person replied. It was incredible. She dreamed that she was talking face to face with Jesus! He just told her she could have anything she desired. "I want peace of mind and love and happiness and wisdom and freedom from fear," she said. Then almost as an afterthought, she added, "Not just for me, but for everyone on earth". Jesus smiled, "I think you've got me wrong, my dear. We do not sell fruits here. Only seeds."

In today's Scripture, Jesus tells a parable about a Sower who went forth to sow seed. Not all the seed would germinate. The birds would soon eat some. Some would fall among thorns, which eventually would choke it out. Nevertheless, some seed would fall on good soil ~ and it would produce an unbelievable harvest, "some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."

Jesus spoke of a tremendous harvest in spite of the fact that some seed was lost along the way. The seed we sow may seem so tiny, but at harvest time, the yield will be fantastic--beyond our expectation.

Have you heard the amazing story of how [a little seed became a mighty tree](#) that changed our world forever? Recently when Boris Yeltsin died, the media concentrated on reporting the darker side of his life, forgetting his tremendous role to change Russia, and ending the cold war! Yeltsin became the first President of a free Russia shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union. At that time, a reporter asked what gave him the courage to stand firm and help insure the fall of Communism.

Yeltsin then said that [he was inspired after he heard the story](#) of the electrician who helped bring democracy to Poland. [Lech Walesa](#), an electrician helped bring democracy to Poland! We know that Walesa when he was asked the same question stated that he was, inspired by reading accounts [of the civil rights movement](#) in this country, led by Martin Luther King. We know that Dr. King always said that he was spurred to action when he learned of the courage of one woman, [Rosa Parks](#), who simply refused to sit in the back of the bus.

We seldom know the potential of the seed we sow, [but is it possible that the fall of Communism was brought about by one courageous woman of color who refused a seat in the back of the bus?](#)

In this parable of Jesus, wherever we go, we all carry a bag of seeds. We might never know when we are sowing seed what the result might be. However, we do know that Jesus said that much could come from little. I do not know about you, but I have seen it happen and I believe it with all my heart.

It is up to you and me how we are going to use the seeds we are given. Jesus spoke of a tremendous harvest in spite of the fact that some seed was lost along the way. Do we share Jesus' vision of God's Kingdom on earth?

If we faithfully sow, water, and nurture the seed, finally at harvest time the yield will be fantastic, unbelievable! [Seek first God's Kingdom and its righteousness, and all these other things will be given to you as well.](#) **AMEN**

