

The Cost of Discipleship

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I. Introduction. Text: Matthew 13:36-38, John 12:23-26.

II. We are “seeds.” If you are a child of the king Jesus, you are a seed among other things.

III. Jesus is the farmer.

IV. The field is the world.

A. The seed does not choose where it goes, the sower does.

B. We must be available to serve wherever God wants us.

C. Any reservation drains the power of the Spirit in one’s life now.

V. Unless the seed dies, it abides alone. If it dies, it bears much fruit.

A. Death means to relinquish control. (I Corinthians 14, Ecclesiastes 8:8)

B. The seed dies to itself.

C. We have to be open-handed about our possessions, activities and relationships.

D. Every test we pass simply qualifies us for a tougher pass.

VI. The seed that dies forms deep roots. (Isaiah 37:31)

A. Fruit is a result of relationship with Christ.

B. Fruitfulness and busy-ness are antithetical.

VII. The seed bears life. (Mark 4:28)

A. The process is just as important as the product.

B. We should not hurry God—let Him develop you at His pace.

VIII. One bears fruit in season. Rarely do any two people have the same season. (Psalm 1:1-3, Jeremiah 17)

Application questions:

1. How does the seed illustration help us to see that we are not in control of our ministry?

2. What does it mean to die to oneself?

3. What areas of your life may God be calling you to die to yourself? Spend some time in prayer and write your reflections below.
