

Commitment to Eternal Values

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I. Introduction.

- A. We have been chosen that we might bear fruit. (John 15:16)
- B. There is a lifecycle in the Scriptures.
- C. Text: Matthew 13:36-38, John 12:24-26.

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

III. Jesus is the sower.

- A. We must be available to the sower to go wherever he needs us.
- B. If we are not available, we are not as fruitful right where we are.
- C. Christ should have the authority to plant you wherever He wants.

IV. The field is the world.

- A. The gospel is for the world.
- B. We must be willing as others before us were.

V. If the seed dies, it bears much fruit.

- A. The seed disintegrates and loses its identity.
- B. The seed that does not die abides alone.
- C. One’s life is the sum total of all his or her activities, relationships and possessions.
- D. Death means to hate one’s life.

1. We must “hate his life”—that is, esteem our life as nothing in comparison to our love for Christ.

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

VI. The seed that dies forms deep roots. (Isaiah 37:31, Romans 7:4)

- A. Fruit is a result of relationship with Christ.

B. The visible life is a product of the invisible life.

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

A. There is something about life that requires time.

B. The process is as important as the product.

VIII. One bears fruit in season. (Psalm 1:1-3)

A. We must let fruit happen in its own time. (Jeremiah 17:7-8)

B. Fruit regarding disciples and maturity will come in its own season.

IX. Multiplication. (Genesis 1:29)

A. We must let God work in the disciple's life however He will.

B. The fruit must learn to die to themselves also.

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.
