



**THE SECRET OF THE SEED
(Sermon)**

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One day a boy found himself in the backyard of his home enjoying a sweet juicy mango, one of his favorite fruits. After eating that delicious mango, he threw away the seed in the yard without paying much attention to it. To his surprise, many days later, when he returned to the place where he had thrown the seed, instead of a seed he now found a mango plant. The seed had turned into a little tree with the potential of producing many other mangos. This made him think about the mysterious power that a seed holds. A small seed planted in fertile soil will produce immeasurable results.

Maybe because of that, the Lord Jesus Christ compared the Word of God with a seed and utilized the parable of the farmer to explain the powerful, mysterious, and convincing transforming power that exists in the “seed,” the Word of God. Our Loving Father has left us a seed with a transforming power. That seed is the secret that produces a happy life, joyful and eternal. This seed holds the secret of true life.

In reality, life on this planet is a mystery. Knowing how to live it is a secret that many are not aware of. You exist because you possess the biggest treasure in the world: life. The most important possession in the world is life. That is why Jesus said: What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? (Mathew 16:26, NIV).

How can we get our life, the biggest treasure that we possess, to be happy and everlasting? Jesus gives us the secret in a story:

“While a large crowd was gathering and people were coming to Jesus from town after town, he told this parable: ‘A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up.

Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.’ When he said this, he called out, ‘He who has ears to hear, let him hear’ ” (Luke 8:4-8, NIV).

Jesus says, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear,” meaning, “Pay attention. I am going to say something of great importance. If you have ears, clean them really well so that you can hear what I am going to say.”

The method that Jesus used to teach us included “parables.” The gospels are full of these. Parables are intriguing stories that Jesus utilized to take his listeners from the known to the unknown; from the most simple and straightforward to the most profound and sublime. This was his favorite method of teaching important truths with regards to the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. Very rarely did Jesus explain his parables, but this parable was different. Jesus did not want this particular parable to be misunderstood. That is why he offered a very detailed explanation to his disciples so that they would be very clear on the meaning of the parable. Let us see:

“His disciples asked him what this parable meant. He said, ‘The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, “though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand.” ‘This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop’” (Luke 8:9-15, NIV).

1. The seed along the path: This parable talks to us about the great conflict between good and evil. “Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved” (Luke 8:12, NIV).

On his behalf, God plants the good seed in the hearts of all humanity. The good seed is the Word of God. He who receives it will be mysteriously changed and transformed to the likeness of Christ and will have joy and happiness in his heart. He will feel happy. He will be a good husband, a good wife, a good citizen. He will grow in faith and will be saved.

But every time a person comes near to God to hear the Word, the enemy also comes near to take away the Word from his heart. The enemy knows the secret of the transforming power of the Word of God. That is why when the seed is immediately planted, he quickly goes to work to take it from your heart. This means that there is a great battle in every human heart. This is not a common battle in which it is decided who will be victorious and who will surrender or die. No, in this battle the devil does not have the option of life or death. He has been defeated and he is sentenced to death. This is a battle between life and death for you. It is your life that is in danger. It is your salvation that is at risk. Do you know why the devil wants to take away your seed? Because after your life, the most important treasure you possess is your faith in Jesus Christ, and that faith grows and develops and gives fruit only when the seed, in other words, the Word of

God, is planted in your heart.

2. The seed on the rock: The second soil which Jesus tells us about is the rocky one. “Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away” (Luke 8:13, NIV).

Here Jesus talks about a superficial belief. The seed on the rock cannot grow, and if it grows, it does not draw very deep roots. Have you tried planting seeds among the rocks? Or on concrete? How successful where you? Well, not very successful. There may be a crevice in the concrete or in between the rocks and the seed will try to draw roots, but its roots cannot dig down deep enough so the small plant begins to grow in a superficial plane. The soil is hard, difficult for plants to grow in. In the same way, there are hardened hearts, hearts made out of stone. Some are made of pure concrete.

The same phenomenon that occurs when we try to plant a seed over the rocks occurs in the heart of the human being. When the seed of the word of God is planted in the heart and is received with joy and happiness, faith begins to grow, and for some time, there are signs of life. But then comes the suffering that is inevitable in the life of each person, and the seed that had been planted is taken away by the devil.

3. The seed among thorns: The third soil on which the seed falls is the soil full of thorns. “The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature” (Luke 8:14, NIV). Jesus explains that the thorns are life's worries, riches and pleasures.

It seems as though Jesus is giving an exact description of the modern society in which we live, a society that has no issue identifying itself as religious, a society that boasts about its belief in God. In a recent survey done by *Newsweek*, it was found that 91 percent of North Americans believe in God and 87 percent identify themselves with some Christian religion. Note that the problem is not intellectual, nor religious. The people accept the concept of God and they say they believe in Him. People believe in God, but that belief in God does not bear fruit, says Jesus. And, of course, a seed that is surrounded by thorns and weeds cannot bear fruit.

It is possible that Satan has filled your heart with thorns. Thorns of worries, of jealousy, thorns of ill feeling, thorns of hate. Thorns that do not allow you to be happy. Thorns that do not allow you to live an abundant and happy life to its fullest that God wants to give you. If that's so, ask Jesus to remove those thorns and that He may allow you to bear fruit for the glory and honor of His name.

4. The seed on good soil: This fourth group is those who received the Word, retained it and bore fruit. “But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering, produce a crop” (Luke 8:15, NIV). These are the ones that do not allow the devil to come in and take their seed. Additionally, they do not allow trials and worries of this life to drown out their seed.

They are the ones that allow their seed to grow daily in their hearts and bear fruit that is constant and perseverant.

There was a woman named Maria who was used to a life of delight and pleasures. She would spend all of her money on parties and bingo. But the seed of the Word of God was born in her heart; she met Jesus and gave Him her life. Maria experienced the wonderful transformation of the grace of Christ. She found peace and happiness when she allowed the planted seed to grow and bear fruit for eternal life. In this way, the void that she had in her heart and that she tried to fill with other things was now full of Jesus. Now there was peace in her heart. The sorrow that seized her heart was mysteriously lifted. This is the secret power that is only found in the seed: The Word of God.

When the seed of the Word of God is planted in the human heart, the devil will do everything possible to destroy it. There are many challenges that we will have to face in order to retain the seed in our heart. These are some of those challenges:

1. Mockery
2. Disbelief
3. Worldliness
4. The worries of life
5. The search for money
6. The pleasures of this world
7. The trials
8. The pain
9. The suffering
10. Materialism

The good news is that all of these challenges can be defeated by the power and the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Word planted in our hearts. Neither the attacks of men nor the contempt of the skeptics or the indifferent will destroy or nullify God's Word, because the prophet has said: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:8, NIV).

Through the years the enemy has tried but has not been able to physically destroy the Word of God. That is why he is now trying to destroy its effects, in other words, the mysterious power of the Word of God to transform the hearts of human beings. Do not allow Satan to take away the Word that has been planted in your heart. In the final days of the history of this world we will be bombarded with all kinds of deceit. Only those that have filled their hearts with the study of the Word of God will be kept from the evil one.

Some do not accept the Word of God, instead they conform to only portions of it. Some accept the New Testament but reject the Old Testament. However, we are recommended to not add or take anything from the Word of God: "Every word of God is flawless...Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar" (Proverbs 30:5-6, NIV).

Remember that the seed of life is the Word of God and that the Word of God is Jesus (John 1:1-3, NIV). “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” (John 1:14, NIV).

It is a deceit to think that knowledge is what brings victory, joy or happiness. If that was so, the only thing you would have to do in order to be happy would be to obtain an academic degree. Some think that in order to be victorious in your Christian life the only thing you have to do is know a lot about the Bible. However, true victory is found in developing a special friendship with the Lord Jesus Christ, the author of the Word.

Jesus desires to plant the Word in your heart. Jesus chose the human heart as the soil where the seed should be deposited. This same image is utilized by the psalmist when he says: “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalms 119:11, NIV).

How do we explain why some people are victorious in life and others are not? Where is the secret of victory in life? The secret is in the seed. Do not let anyone take it from you. Let it grow in your heart. Allow Jesus to shine in your soul and in your heart. May that seed that He planted bear fruits for eternal life. Hopefully you will not be like some people who seek joy, happiness and peace in the wrong places.

An example of this is millionaire William Randolph Hearst, a man that invested a fortune collecting treasures of art from all over the world. One day Hearst read the descriptions of a valuable piece of art he decided he wanted to add to his collection. Immediately he sent his agent overseas to look for that beautiful work of art and to obtain it, however necessary. After having searched for months, the agent informed Mr. Hearst that he finally found the treasure. To Hearst’s surprise, the work of art was found in his own gallery. The multimillionaire had been searching the entire world for a treasure that he already possessed. If he would have read the catalogue of his own collection, he would have saved lots of time and money.

Do not look for peace or happiness where it is not found. You already have it in the Bible, the Word of a Living God. Even more, I venture to say that the solution to all of your problems is found in the Bible, the miraculous seed.

Three secrets to have a life full of fruit:

1. Keep the Word in your heart and not only in your mind. “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you” (Psalms 119:11, NIV).
2. Feed yourself with the Word of God every day. This is the only way in which you will be able to conquer Satan’s attacks. Just as food is essential for life, so is spiritual food, not only for spiritual life, but for life in general.

That is why in his struggle with Satan in the wilderness, Jesus used the Word of God.

“The tempter came to him and said, ‘If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.’ Jesus answered, ‘It is written: Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4: 3, 4, NIV).

3. Come to Jesus everyday so that you may have life. As we have already mentioned, the seed is the Word of God and the Word of God is Jesus. The Jews studied the scriptures thinking that by studying them they were deserving of eternal life. They failed to recognize Jesus, in spite of the Word of God incarnate, the secret of the power of the seed.

“Nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life” (John 5:38-40, NIV).

Lord, thank you for your Word. Help me to have a tender heart, receptive and humble, so that your Word may grow in my heart and transform my life.