

Because of You – Part 4

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A “Because of You” life is realizing God needs you to lift and love others in His Kingdom, and it requires understanding the operation of the Kingdom of God.

3 keys to understanding the Kingdom of God

1. It’s a Kingdom of “seeds, not “trees”

- Trees bear fruit - seeds bear trees
- This is God’s economy of scale – He tells us to go get Him the whole world!

Mark 4:30-32 - Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shelter."

The seeds of God’s Kingdom work in seasons; God’s Kingdom doesn’t work on a calendar year. You must learn to live with God’s clock.

A story of how a seed became a forest of trees

- In 1976, she was 40 years old, and had become suicidal. She contemplated taking her life numerous times, but she didn’t because she didn’t take her life because she did not want to leave her children behind. If she hadn’t had kids, she would have taken her own life.
- One evening, as she lay in bed, not knowing the Bible at all, she heard a voice from behind her say, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and all else will be given to you”. That voice spoke a passage of Scripture:

Matthew 6:33 - But seek first His Kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

- She went to a Bible study. The woman leading the Bible study came to her at the end and asked her if she would like to be saved from her sins. At first she said “I couldn’t be. You have to work; you have to earn this. It can’t be that simple” But the host asked her to read some verses from the Bible. When she was reading the Scripture, she was overwhelmed with God’s presence.
- On November 16, 1976 at 10:00 pm, she gave her life to Christ and began to serve Him with all her heart. That night her life became a kingdom seed.
- That woman is my mother.
- I am a tree of that seed – she led me to Christ
- If this church has had any impact on your life, you are a tree of that seed.

- Who & what is on the other side of the seed of your life?
- Don't give up on the seed of your life.
- You are a seed in the Kingdom of God.

2. Like Jesus, my seed must die to multiply

John 12:23-24 - Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a seed of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.

- Jesus' life was the first seed.
- Seeds must die in order to produce a harvest.
- Seeds may leave your hand, but they never leave your life.
- When you live a kingdom life, it means you no longer want to be the hero in your story, but the hero maker.
- You will only experience the power of the seed when it dies.
- You will need to be intentional; you will have to choose to do something with your life.

3. God doesn't control my harvest & blessing

II Corinthians 9:6-11 – Remember this: whoever sows or gives sparingly, will also reap or receive sparingly, and whoever sows or gives generously, will also reap or receive generously. Each man should sow or give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

- You, not God, decide the quantity of the seeds you sow and the size of your harvest.

For example – a tomato seed packet:

- As long as the seeds stay in the packet, they produce nothing.
- Don't eat your seeds.
- Like these tomato seeds, every kingdom seed has inherent power within itself to produce what it promises.
- You will only experience resurrection power, when your seed dies!
- Seeds may leave your hand, but they never leave your life.

You choose to intentionally plant your time, talent, and treasure seeds:

- Money – intentionally tithing and giving into Kingdom Builders
- Time & talent – intentionally sowing/serving on the dream team
- It's remarkable that the smallest of kingdom seeds, has the power to change a life (me), a church (you), a city, the Northeast, a nation, the world.
- God's inherent power in the seeds you plant, also cause your everyday life to be blessed!

Proverbs 11:24-25 - One man gives freely and becomes more wealthy; another is stingy and loses everything. The generous will prosper; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

- God wants to both bless you & make you a blessing.