

Devoted to God's Purpose

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction - Matthew 13:36-38.

A. This expresses what the ministry is trying to do and what believers should be doing.

II. Jesus' illustrations of the kingdom of God.

A. The kingdom of God is the kingship of God - the kingly rule of God over the lives of people.

1. All the people that belong to God make up God's people.
2. There is love and warmth that connect God's followers to one another.

B. The kingdom comes by growing.

C. People enter the kingdom through repentance and faith.

1. The speaker followed a girl to church he was attracted to.
2. Ultimately he was led to a saving faith in Christ - he knew that Christ died for him, but he never knew that he had to ask Christ into his life.

D. The good seed means the sons of the kingdom.

E. As sons of the kingdom it is our job to help the kingdom spread.

1. When we pray for the kingdom to come we seek for its spread throughout the world.
2. Believers are sons of the kingdom. (Mark 10:25-27)

F. The chief characteristic of good seed is that it can reproduce. (Genesis 1:1-10)

1. Multiplication is the heart of the ministry.
2. This can effectively "populate" the world with Christians.

G. Believers can reproduce and multiply two things. (2 Corinthians 4:7-12)

1. Jesus' likeness in themselves.
 - a. The Spirit enables us to be like Jesus.

b. God wants to populate heaven with people like Jesus.

2. Other believers.

H. Three requirements for multiplication.

1. The seed must have life.

a. Christ enables you.

b. There is no excuse why God cannot use you.

c. You are good seed.

2. The seed must be sown.

a. It is to be sown wherever people are.

b. Dream some dreams - think big.

c. There is no place in this world that God could not use you.

d. Christ does the sowing.

1) You must go where Christ wants you. (Matthew 15:13)

2) God calls us individually by name. (John 1:6)

3) There is a spontaneity to you when you know God has called.

3. Good seed must die. (John 12:24)

a. The greatest victories often come after the darkest times.

b. There is no success without suffering.

c. If you are succeeding without suffering it is because someone suffered before you; if you are suffering without succeeding it is so someone will succeed after you.

d. ***Never doubt in the light what God showed you in the dark.***

e. We have to die to good things every day for God.

f. Even Jesus learned obedience by what He suffered.

Application questions.

1. What is the chief characteristic of 'good seed'? How ideally is the kingdom supposed to spread?

2. What role does suffering play in the spread of the kingdom?

3. What contribution are you making to the kingdom? How can you fine tune or incorporate your gifts for spiritual reproduction?
