

The Seed Is the Word of God

Luke: All Things New



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Sermon Text

Luke 8:4-15



Big Idea

If we want to bear fruit for God, we must be people rooted deeply, daily in the truths of the gospel.

(1) The Word of God Engenders the Life of God

This seed that is the word of God, before it is anything else, is the gospel—the good news of the kingdom of God that has arrived in Jesus Christ, which, in its fullest form, is the good news of the Son crucified and raised for sinful people.

The concern in our text is bearing fruit, right? Well, the gospel as seed should serve as helpful corrective for us here. Often we think of beginning with the gospel and then bearing fruit in our own strength. The gospel starts, but I finish. But this isn't right. This line of thinking contradicts the image Jesus gives us here. The seed and the fruit compose an organic whole. The latter cannot be separated from the former. Genuine fruit can always trace itself back to the seed.

Therefore, if in all my concern for bearing fruit, I neglect the seed, I actually cut myself off from the very thing I need most. From the seed comes the roots, from the roots, the stem, and from the stem, the branches, and through the branches flow life that allows me to bear fruit. But it's all vitally connected. So if I care about bearing fruit in my life, I need to make sure I'm grounded in, rooted in, the gospel—the person and work of Jesus for me. Am I resting in Him, am I trusting that His work on the cross is enough, that His grace is sufficient? Am I, in the language of our text, "hold[ing] fast" to the word (v. 15)?! Because that's the only way to grow and yield a "hundredfold" (v. 8).

(2) The Word of God Gets under the Skin

Grace defines me. Grace fuels me. Grace keeps me. Grace changes me . . . from the inside-out. The Christian gets his fruit not first by exertion, but by regeneration, by transformation. The word is not a bulldozer pushing at us from outside. It is a seed that gets under the skin, into the soil of our hearts, and changes us there!

(3) The Word of God Develops Organically

Jesus doesn't say that the word of God is a silver bullet—you receive it and all your problems with sin and suffering are gone. He says it's a seed. And I don't know if you've ever tried to plant anything and actually grow your own food, but it takes a long time.

Reflection Questions



- Martin Luther said: "The truth of the Gospel is the principle article of all Christian doctrine. . . . Most necessary is it that we know this article well, teach it to others, and beat it into their heads continually." Why do you think he would say this on such strong terms?
- Have you ever fallen into the trap of thinking that the gospel is mainly for unbelievers? What helped you see it's ongoing relevance and importance in your Christian life? How does the gospel help you process the week that's just passed? How does it inform the week that now lies ahead of you?
- What is one area you personally hope to grow in and bear fruit for God? How long have you struggled with this? How has God's grace in the gospel helped? Why do you think it's still taking so long to get beyond it?