

BUILDING RESOURCES

We build resources to extend God’s kingdom by sowing in the field and investing in good ground.

KEY POINTS

- ❖ To build something sustainable, we must first see that it is bigger than us and our lifetimes. And on our watch, we must do our part.

SUCCESSFUL BUILDING ALWAYS STARTS WITH A BASE

- ❖ Jesus began the parable in Matthew 13 by saying, “A farmer **went out** to sow his seed.” The words “went out” suggest that the farmer was both coming from somewhere and also going somewhere.
- ❖ Let’s start with the origin: where he was coming from. You might imagine that the farmer had a home. It served not only as his refuge, but also as his source of protection, sustenance and inspiration.
- ❖ The home base is a focal point of blessing in a few places in the Bible (see Deuteronomy 28:6 and Psalms 121:8). And as we can see in Matthew 7:24-25, successful building always starts with a base, a foundation that God pours His blessings upon.
- ❖ Jesus likened Himself to a vine, with us being His branches (John 15:1-8). In Genesis 49:22, we read that the more firmly the tree is rooted, the greater the potential for its branches to extend their reach.
- ❖ And while a wall can act as a limiting factor, in God’s design this seeming limitation is what actually focuses the tree’s capabilities and causes it to stand strong.
- ❖ Home base doesn’t move to points of need, but it enables the branches to get there. So, a powerful base is critical in the work of the Kingdom.
- ❖ God wants us to have a united, thriving community where He can command the blessing of eternal life. What we do should *strengthen* our base, not deplete it. Our intention is to sow seeds, not to remove chunks of the vine.
- ❖ Let’s consider the next principle of building: sowing.

SOW IN A FIELD BUT CAST A WIDE NET

- ❖ In our scripture reading, a farmer **went out** to sow his seed. Jesus goes on to say: “As he was **scattering** the seed...” (v. 4). We can now look at the destination he was taking the seed to.
- ❖ That destination won’t be the base, but the much larger area that surrounded the base: the seed was being sown into a field.
- ❖ In the parable of the wheat and the tares that occurs later in our key scripture (vv. 24-30), Jesus describes the field as “the world.” Now, when we think about the world, we realize that the farmer is casting his net wide.
- ❖ Going back to Jacob’s blessing upon Joseph (Gen. 49:22), the base might be contained within the wall, but the branches will climb over the wall and extend far beyond it on the strength of the base.

KEY SCRIPTURE:

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-30, 36-43 (NIV)

- ❖ The time has come for us to become a church that takes centre stage in our community rather than a peripheral one. We’re going to sow in the field but cast a wide net. And while we sow wide, we invest with focus, which is our third principle:

INVEST IN WHAT’S FRUITFUL

- ❖ Let’s dig deeper into the parable of the sower:
 - ◆ The seed sown along the path (v. 19)
 - We love everybody, but understand that our main investment will not be in people who hear the gospel but choose something else.
 - ◆ The seed falling on rocky ground (vv. 20-21)
 - We love everybody, but understand that our main investment will not be in people who are nomads: here today, gone tomorrow.
 - ◆ The seed falling among the thorns (v. 22)
 - We love everybody, but understand that our main investment will not be in people who end their discipleship journey at consumption. Such people only participate for what they can get, not what they can give.
 - ◆ The seed falling on good soil (v. 23)
 - We love everybody, but understand that our main investment will be in people who want to obey the voice of the Spirit and advance the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- ❖ The world is dying in sin and we Christians are designated to share with people God’s design for their salvation: believe God, turn from sin, be baptized in His Name and receive His Spirit. Our fruit yields will differ, but God is simply looking for the ones who will give their all to Him.
- ❖ Expanding our church community to look and act more like heaven will come as a result of targeted investments. We will not invest in everything, but we will invest in what’s fruitful.
- ❖ So, let us invest in creating a strong base that will last for generations to come.

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. Read the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:18-23. Is the type of ground the seed is being sown into obvious? Is there anything we can do to “cultivate” the ground beforehand?
2. Everybody has different personalities and, as such, will “sow seed” in different ways. Discuss your method in sharing the gospel or in being a living witness. What improvements can be made, so that you may be able to share Christ effectively?

PRAYER TIME

Lord, create in me a strong, enduring base that can last for generations to come.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, AUGUST 14, 2022

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week’s message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.

✓ (Reminds me/Confirms) 🌱 (New idea) 🗣️ (Think about)

! (Do this) ❤️ (Speaks to my heart) ➡️ (Must share)

PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

Go deeper with your Life Group family.
CONNECT-REFLECT-DISSECT THE
WORD

Start-up: Have you ever tried to make something grow, whether it be a plant, an investment, etc. What were the things you learned to do or not do?