

# From Seed to Fruit

The Word of God; The Works of Men

v 1.02

1. People woke up
2. People realized the desperate need to wake up, that "simply going to church" wasn't enough, it hasn't and wouldn't cut it, they needed "the good fruit"
3. People began to pray, fast, etc. for their loved ones to also wake up and leave Babylon with them, and produce fruit
4. People began to realize that they might have to leave family behind and make sacrifices
5. People began to rationalize away everything they have just learned, the need for "good fruit"
6. People's rationalization is complete, they have accepted "grace without works", weekly mundane church service with a bare minimum effort is once again rationalized away as "enough for exaltation"
7. Christmas season; people were brought face to face with the choice between "family" and Zion, how did we do? If we couldn't stand up to our families at Christmas what makes us think we will be able to walk away from them to New Jerusalem? If we couldn't make that choice now what makes us think we will make the choice then?
8. People realize this and begin to withdraw, the devil now having full power over them, the flaxen cord now back to thick chains... or in other words, the seed was planted in stony places

Those with eyes to see have just witnessed live what Joseph Smith saw only in vision:

*"I was surrounded by my friends, and while looking at this harbor I saw a steamboat approaching the harbor. There were bridges on the pier for persons to cross, and there came up a wind and drove the steamboat under one of the bridges and upset it. I ran up to the boat, expecting the persons would all drown; and wishing to do something to assist them, I put my hand against the side of the boat, and with one surge I shoved it under the bridge and righted it up, and then told them to take care of themselves. But it was not long before I saw them starting out into the channel or main body of the water again. The storms were raging and the waters rough. I said to my friends that if they did not understand the signs of the times and the spirit of prophecy, they would be apt to be lost. It was but a few moments after when we saw the waves break over the boat, and she soon foundered and went down with all on board...." (Joseph Smith, History of the Church, 6:194–95).*

I hope and pray that we all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year while still retaining what the Lord taught us at this crucial "hinge point", that we may continue to plant the seed in "good ground"... May we show our gratitude for the gift we claim to celebrate during this season the right way- grounded in pure truth with the good seeds! Remember:

*"...there is nothing that [Joseph's Boys] shall take in [their] heart to do but what [they] will do it...[for] the Lord [hath shown unto us], the intelligences that were organized before the world was; and among all these ... noble and great ones, [were Joseph's Boys!]; And God saw these souls that they were good, and he stood in the midst of them, and he said: These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good... [may we be so worthy to be told] 'thou art one of them; thou wast chosen before thou wast born'."*  
-(Abraham 3:17, 22-23)

**The sower of the seed:** (Luke 8:5, Mark 4:3, Matthew 13:3)

A sower went out to sow his seed:

**By the wayside:** (Luke 8:5, Mark 4:4, Matthew 13:4)

and as he sowed some fell by the way side; and were trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured them up.

**On stony ground:** (Luke 8:6, Mark 4:5, Matthew 13:5)

Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprang up; and when the sun was up, they were scorched because they had no deepness of earth; and because they had no root, they withered away.

**Among thorns:** (Luke 8:7, Mark 4:6, Matthew 13:6)

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with them, and choked them, and they yielded no fruit.

**On good ground:** (Luke 8:8, Mark 4:7, Matthew 13:7)

But others fell on good ground, and sprang up, yielding fruit: some thirtyfold, some sixtyfold, and some an hundredfold.

**The sower meaning:** (Matthew 13:37, D&C 1:38, D&C 101:12)

Now the parable is this: He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man: and whether by mine own voice or by the voice of my servants, those upon the watchtower, or in other words, all mine Israel, it is the same.

**The seed meaning:** (Luke 8:11, Mark 4:13)

The sower soweth the seed and the seed is the word of God.

**By the wayside meaning:** (Luke 8:12, Mark 4:14, Matthew 13:18, TPJS p.96)

They who received the seed by the wayside are they who heareth the word of the kingdom and understandeth not, for these are men of no principle of truth, therefore they understandeth not truth. Then cometh the wicked one, the devil, Satan, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts, for they had no desire for righteousness in them, lest they should believe and be saved.

**On stony ground meaning:** (Luke 8:13, Mark 4:15, Matthew 13:19)

And they that received the seed into stony places, the same are they that heareth the word and readily with joy receiveth it, yet they have not root in themselves, and so endureth in belief but for a while; for when in a time of temptation or weakness, tribulation or persecution or affliction arise against them, because of the word or for the word's sake, by and by they are offended and fall away.

**Among thorns meaning:** (Luke 8:14, Mark 4:16, Matthew 13:20)

And these are they who receive the word among thorns, they are they who hear the word, and the cares of this world and the pleasures of life, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in choke the word; and they becometh unfruitful, bringing no fruit to perfection.

**On good ground meaning:** (Luke 8:15, Mark 4:17, Matthew 13:21)

But they who received seed into the good ground are they who receive the word in an honest and good heart, having heard the word and understandeth, keep what they hear, enduring with patience and bring forth fruit; some thirtyfold, some sixty and some an hundred.

**The Call:** (Matthew 7:13-14, 3 Nephi 14:13-14, 3 Nephi 27:33)

Repent, therefore, and enter ye in at the strait gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction; and many there be who go in thereat. Because strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life; and few there be that find it.

**The Warning:** (Matthew 7:15, Matthew 16:12, 3 Nephi 14:15)

Take heed, beware of the leaven of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves, yea, beware their false doctrine.

**The Key; The Fruit:** (Matthew 7:16-20, Luke 6:43, 3 Nephi 14:17-23, Doctrine and Covenants 11:20)

Ye shall know them by their fruits, for do men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire, for good fruit are the good works of men, which is your work, to keep my commandments, yea, with all your might, mind and strength. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

**Wise Man:** (Matthew 7:24, Luke 6:48, 3 Nephi 14:24)

Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock; and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock.

**Foolish Man:** (Matthew 7:26-27, Luke 6:49, 3 Nephi 14:26)

And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, who built his house upon the sand; and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house; and it fell, and great was the fall of it.

**Final Warning:** (Matthew 7:30-33 JST, Luke 8:8, 3 Nephi 14:22)

Verily, I say unto you, It is not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, that shall enter into the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven. For the day soon cometh that men shall come before me to judgment, to be judged according to their works. And many will say unto me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name; and in thy name cast out devils; and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I say, Ye never knew me; depart from me, ye that work iniquity. Jesus cried, 'he that hath ears to hear, let him hear.'

### **Jacob Summation:** (Jacob 6:2-13)

The day that the Lord God shall set his hand again the second time to recover his people, is the day, yea, even the last time, that the servants of the Lord shall go forth in his power, to nourish and prune his vineyard; and after that the end soon cometh. And how blessed are they who have labored diligently in his vineyard; and how cursed are they who shall be cast out into their own place! And the world shall be burned with fire. And how merciful is our God unto us, for he remembereth the house of Israel, both roots and branches; and he stretches forth his hands unto them all the day long; and they are a stiffnecked and a gainsaying people; but as many as will not harden their hearts shall be saved in the kingdom of God. Wherefore, my beloved brethren, I beseech of you in words of soberness that ye would repent, and come with full purpose of heart, and cleave unto God as he cleaveth unto you. And while his arm of mercy is extended towards you in the light of the day, harden not your hearts. Yea, today, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts; for why will ye die? For behold, after ye have been nourished by the good word of God all the day long, will ye bring forth evil fruit, that ye must be hewn down and cast into the fire? Behold, will ye reject these words? Will ye reject the words of the prophets; and will ye reject all the words which have been spoken concerning Christ, after so many have spoken concerning him; and deny the good word of Christ, and the power of God, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and quench the Holy Spirit, and make a mock of the great plan of redemption, which hath been laid for you? Know ye not that if ye will do these things, that the power of the redemption and the resurrection, which is in Christ, will bring you to stand with shame and awful guilt before the bar of God? And according to the power of justice, for justice cannot be denied, ye must go away into that lake of fire and brimstone, whose flames are unquenchable, and whose smoke ascendeth up forever and ever, which lake of fire and brimstone is endless torment. O then, my beloved brethren, repent ye, and enter in at the strait gate, and continue in the way which is narrow, until ye shall obtain eternal life. O be wise; what can I say more? Finally, I bid you farewell, until I shall meet you before the pleasing bar of God, which bar striketh the wicked with awful dread and fear. Amen.

### **Choose You This Day**

Looking back at the early Saints without having any pioneers in my family personally, it was always a game of “who would I have been?” I know talking to many Saints, that they will try to empathize with the early Saints, and will ask questions like “how did they do what they did?” or “how could they rebuild time and time again?” or “how did they remain faithful?” etc. No doubt when these converts first asked the Lord, “Lord, where do you want me to go?” and missionaries came knocking on their doors, they had a fire, and when those missionaries baptized those converts in the freezing rivers they didn’t even feel the cold. No doubt, those converts when they heard the voice of the Lord or felt the Lord’s hand telling them to move to Kirtland with the Saints they had a fire burning in their souls that could not be quenched. What a shock it must have been to get to Kirtland and find the Saints squabbling. What a shock it must have been to hear people who they respected spew poison against the prophet Joseph Smith, or maybe even the missionaries themselves who shared the gospel with them. What a shock in deed! But it was what they did next that determined their spiritual progression, and for most of them their final destinations at their judgements; did they remain true to the original command from the Lord and

build their faith line upon line, or did they give way to doubt and destroy their precious faith—was the ground they planted the seed in good ground or stony ground? When the sun came out, would they be scorched with a little heat? “The Lord will save me regardless of this choice!” they might have rationalized, “the Lord brought me here it is true, but maybe the Lord only did so for me to find this apostate group, it wasn’t to build my faith in the Prophet Joseph Smith!” And so the “Saints of God” fell out on the left and on the right, for “many are called but few are chosen”... And why? Because they let go of the original light that was given to them, they denied it, and thus were left in darkness... I am reminded of the talk recently given in conference, Spiritually Defining Memories By Elder Neil L. Andersen, in which he said:

“You might think of your spiritual memories this way. With constant prayer, a determination to keep our covenants, and the gift of the Holy Ghost, we navigate our way through life. When personal difficulty, doubt, or discouragement darken our path, or when world conditions beyond our control lead us to wonder about the future, the spiritually defining memories from our book of life are like luminous stones that help brighten the road ahead, assuring us that God knows us, loves us, and has sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to help us return home. And when someone sets their defining memories aside and is lost or confused, we turn them toward the Savior as we share our faith and memories with them, helping them rediscover those precious spiritual moments they once treasured.

...

Embrace your sacred memories. Believe them. Write them down. Share them with your family. Trust that they come to you from your Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son. Let them bring patience to your doubts and understanding to your difficulties. I promise you that as you willingly acknowledge and carefully treasure the spiritually defining events in your life, more and more will come to you. Heavenly Father knows you and loves you!”

Brothers and sisters, I know many of you asked the Lord to prepare you for Zion, I know that many of you asked to be lead to a group of people with the same goal, I know that many of you asked the Lord very specific questions and got very specific answers. I know this. Our responses to those clear, precise, and profound answers from the Lord will now determine our spiritual progression. I commit everyone to write down (if you haven’t) the questions you asked the Lord and the answers you received. I commit us all to make sure our soil runs deep, and is not stony, or by the wayside, etc.

In the name of Jesus Christ, amen!