

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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SEED-SOWING LESSONS

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The Bible records, "A sower went out to sow his seed" (Lk. 8:5). In the following three verses, Luke recollects the Lord's telling of the parable of the sower. Have you reflected upon these vital lessons to be learned.

1) Lesson #1: The Seed Has To Be Sown In Order For Production To Occur. Observe the sower had both intention and purpose. He went out to "sow his seed." Had he not, it was an absolute guarantee no growth of any plant would occur. The same is true spiritually. Paul noted, "I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase" (I Cor. 3:6). Notice the increase transpired after the planting and watering of the seed. The prophet of old asked, "Is the seed yet in the barn" (Hag. 2:19)? The seed, having been left in the barn and not planted, would bring nothing to fruition. Similarly, when we expect the Lord's body to grow without having planted or watered the seed (Lk. 8:11), we are asking for an impossibility. Plant the seed!

Lesson #2: The Seed Must Be Planted In All Types And Classes Of Soils. Perceive the fact the sower planted his seed in all kinds of different soils. He did not "pick and choose" the soil he thought would be best-suited for production and growth. This is an important lesson for us. James reminded, "if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; And ye have respect to him that wareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool" (Jam. 2:2-3). We cannot, as God, see men's hearts (I Sam. 16:7). Hence, like the sower, we plant the incorruptible seed, the "Word of God" (I Pet. 1:23) in any heart we can. It is then up to them as individuals to accept or deny the Word. Always remember, we are seed-planters, not heart-testers! Plant the seed!

3) Lesson #3: We Can

Not Afford To Grow Discouraged When Rejected.

In our story, three of the four soils rejected the seed. Some was "trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it" (Lk. 8:5). Some, when springing up was "withered away, because it lacked moisture" (Lk. 8:6). More seed had "thorns sprang up with it, and choked it" (Lk. 8:7). Lk. 8:8 gladly reports, "And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold."

The success rate of this particular sower was 25%. I believe most of us would be super-ecstatic to find the same today spiritually. The truth may be we might pique the interest of one in a hundred. Even so, we must not, at any time or for any reason, grow discouraged or disheartened.

Always remember, "be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Cor. 15:58).

KINGS AND PROPHETS CHART

A Good Companion For The Finish Of Our Old Testament Study

PROPHETS OF THE BIBLE			
PROPHETS	PROPHESED TO/ABOUT	KINGS WHO RULED DURING PROPHET'S TIME	APPROX DATES (B.C.)
Jonah	Nineveh (Assyria)	Jeroboam II	Before Northern Kingdom of Israel Captivity (780-740)
Nahum	Nineveh (Assyria)	Manasseh, Amon, Josiah	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (658-615)
Obadiah	Edom	Zedekiah	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (590-586)
Hosea	Israel	Jeroboam II, Zechariah, Shallum, Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah, Hoshea	Before Northern Kingdom of Israel Captivity (780-731)
Amos	Israel	Jeroboam II	Before Northern Kingdom of Israel Captivity (790-779)
Isaiah	Judah	Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (760-681)
Jeremiah/ Lamentations	Judah	Josiah, Jehoahaz, Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (626-585)
Joel	Judah	Joash	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (830-798)
Micah	Judah	Jotham, Ahaz, Hezekiah, Manasseh	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (740-695)
Habakkuk	Judah	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (609-597)
Zephaniah	Judah	Amon, Josiah	Before Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (640-626)
Ezekiel	Exiled Judah in Babylon	Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (Babylonian Captivity)	During Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (593-571)
Daniel	Exiled Judah in Babylon	Jehoiakim, Jehoiachin, Zedekiah (Babylonian Captivity)	During Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (605-536)
Haggai	Returned Remnant of Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	After Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (520)
Zachariah	Returned Remnant of Judah	Governor Zerubbabel	After Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (520-518)
Malachi	Returned Remnant of Judah	Governor Nehemiah	After Southern Kingdom of Judah Captivity (420-415)

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm