

## Increasing The Family

Mark 4:26-29

08/10/10

**Introduction:** In the beginning God commanded Adam and Eve to replenish the earth (**Genesis 1:29**). He gave them the responsibility to increase the human family physically. The command was given in the Old Testament, but He commands us now to increase the family spiritually. Every born again believer has been given the charge to worship, work and be a witness for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (**John 4:24**) (**Ephesians 2:10**) (**Matthew 5:16**). The good news is that the Lord has already given us what we need to increase the Family of God. He said if He be lifted up, He will draw all men unto Him. In other words, we just need to be a willing and obedient vessel for Him and let the Word do the work. In our lesson tonight, we are going to see how when we share the Gospel (Good News of Jesus Christ), whether it is from a pulpit or from personal witness, a miraculous process begins that ends in an increase in the Family of God.

### Verse 26

### Steadfast Work

In this verse we see Jesus giving an illustration of a farmer sowing seed into his field. This parable is known as the “Parable Of The Growing Seed”. The farmer **understands** in order for the seed to grow, someone has to sow the seed. In other words, there must be some steadfast work on his part (**1 Corinthians 15:58**). The farmer represents the believer and the seed represents the Word of God. Christians have not been called to sow **wheat** seed into a field, but we have been called to sow the Word (seed) into the hearts of people (**Matthew 28:19-20**). We have been sent into a lost and dying world to tell others about what Jesus has done for us. You may not be a preacher, a **missionary**, or a Pastor; but, if you are saved, you have a testimony. You have been saved by the grace of God and you have a story to tell (**Ephesians 2:8**). We should be like the great examples we find in the Bible and get busy telling others about Jesus (Paul-**1 Timothy 1:12-15**) (The Blind Man-**John 9:25**) (The Woman at the Well- **John 4:28-30**). When we share the Word of God with another person, we have no control over the **results**. Our duty is to sow the seed (Word) and the results are in the hands of the Lord.

## Verse 27

## Secret Work

This verse reveals the secret work that goes on behind the scene. As the farmer goes away about his business, an amazing thing happens. The earth that appears to be dead suddenly begins to show signs of life. No farmer, no scientist, and no philosopher can clearly explain how a dead seed can produce life when it is buried in the ground. Yet, overtime, the seed begins to produce change. It is a puzzling **mystery**, yet the seed produces life within a short period. Sowing the Word of God (The Seed) is the same way. When it is sown into a **prepared** heart, it is a mystery, but that seed begins to **germinate**. Sometimes it happens in minutes or hours. At other times, it may take months or years, but there is life within the seed and it will begin to germinate in the heart. This is a secret process. Even though we cannot see what is going on the inside, God is controlling the process (**John 3:8**). We are responsible for the sowing, the watering, and the **waiting** in faith. God alone is responsible for its germination and growth. (**1 Corinthians 3:6-9**).

## Verses 28-29

## Successful Work

These verses show us the success through the process. Never think for a minute that your witness for Jesus is in vain. We cannot see what God is doing, but He is working **beneath** the soil of the hearts of people to bring souls to Him (**1 Timothy 2:3-4**). You never know, that dead life that you have been sowing into might just spring to life one day. Notice the **successful** work in verse 28. **The Blade** - As the days and nights goes on; it sinks its roots deeper into the soil and steadily becomes stronger. **The Ear**- When the ear appears the promise of future fruit is seen, but there is still more growth. **The Full Corn In The Ear**- Now the ear hangs over due to the heaviness of the fruit within. The plant can now be used to feed and to produce more plants. Likewise, the lives we touch with the Word of God can sometimes touch more people than we can imagine. The Lord still wants us to bring in the **harvest**. We will never know who wants to be a part of the family of God until we share (**Luke 10:2**). There is a precious promise to every child of God who **faithfully** sows the Gospel seed (**Galatians 6:9**). Are we going to help increase the family of God? The Lord has given each of us this charge!