

FAITH4LIFE DEVOTIONAL FOR  
WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 6TH

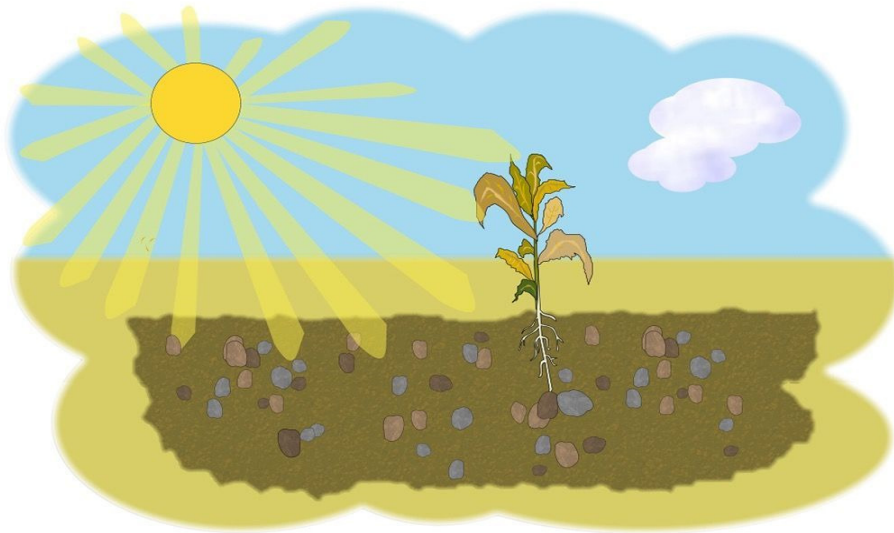
THE GOSPEL OF

*Mark*

- CHAPTER 4 -

## DAY 1 – THE SEED IS SIGNIFICANT

Pastor Matt



*Mark 4:1 – 2 NIV - "And he began again to teach by the sea side: and there was gathered unto him a great multitude, so that he entered into a ship, and sat in the sea; and the whole multitude was by the sea on the land. And he taught them many things by parables, and said unto them in his doctrine,*

What is it to see change in the way of the kingdom of God? God wants His way of doing things to be done on the earth. That what we learn with the parable of the sower. Jesus taught His disciples in parables and his doctrine. **DOCTRINE is the Greek word *didaché***, which means a "summarized" body of respected teaching, *applied-teaching*. Mark lets us know Jesus is about to summarize through this parable **HIS WHOLE TEACHING**. Everything Jesus taught was about the "Kingdom". NOT ABOUT THE ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO HEAVEN... It was bringing Kingdom of Heaven to earth. IT'S THE ATMOSPHERE OF HEAVEN coming here through royal warrior priests who make a change.

*Mark 4:3 KJV - <sup>3</sup>"Hearken; Behold, there went out a sower to sow." HEARKEN, BEHOLD//* Hearken doesn't mean to "hear"... a lot of the problem in our world is people who HEAR but never LISTEN (Kids... husband...). (Example: wife said something I was like "got it" but I was thinking about something else. I had to go back and say "I'm sorry. Tell me again what you asked me to do...") Harken is to come to the ears with understanding- behold is to see deeply. If you LISTEN TO THE WORD, it will change how you PERCEIVE your life.

*(Deuteronomy 28:2 KJV-. "And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God." Bunch of Christians are not blessed because they listen to good messages, listen to gospel music, listen to things BUT HAVE YET TO HEARKEN TO GOD'S VOICE AND SEE THEIR LIFE DIFFERENTLY!*

*I thought we were going to talk about Mark 4 and the sower!!!* MARK SAYS: HERE IS THE SUMMARIZED LESSON - it begins with HEARKEN and BEHOLD. THIS IS THE POINT! ~ God gives us seed to sow. The Greek Word for Hearken means “hear the Word.” The Greek Word for Behold means to “see the change.” Greek Word for “Sow” means to “walk it out.”

***There went out a sower to sow:*** IF YOU DONT RECEIVE THE SEED YOU NEVER PLANT IT!  
IF YOU DON'T GET YOURSELF IN A WORD GIVING CHURCH - YOU WON'T PLANT IT.  
IF YOU DON'T SPEND THE TIME TO LISTEN TO GOD AND RECIEVE WHAT HE IS SAYING - YOU WON'T PLANT IT!

*JESUS proceeds to tell them a parable about sowing.* Anyone ever created a garden? Anyone ever seen a garden? ***JESUS CONNECTS THE MASSIVE IDEA OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD TO:***

- He doesn't talk about a futuristic city like Wakanda... not about some glorious futuristic city...
- He doesn't talk about some GRANDIOUS IDEA - the Kingdom of Heaven is LIKE AN ELEPHANT!
- He uses a seed. WHAT?!

***THE SEED IS SIGNIFICANT! THE world in Jesus' time was an agricultural society*** sowing seed, plowing ground, pray the Lord of the harvest, etc. ***SOWING SEED DOESN'T JUST HAPPEN BECAUSE YOU SHOWED UP!*** No farmer leans on his shovel and says, “I pray to God that this hole appears in the ground.”

ALTHOUGH MARK 4 SPECIFICALLY IS TALKING ABOUT HOW WE GET THINGS OUT OF THE WORD: THERE ARE MANY THINGS THAT WE SOW our time, our treasure our talents.

**YOU WILL ALWAYS REAP WHAT YOU SOW  
YOU WILL ALWAYS REAP AFTER YOU SOW  
YOU WILL ALWAYS REAP MORE THAN YOU SOW!**

*Mark 4:26 KJV – <sup>26</sup>“And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground;”* We planted a garden, and it was hard to really see anything happening. Cause we put the seed in then we cover it over and stood there. You know what it looked like??? **DIRT!** Not very impressive.

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:

- Do you listen or do you hear? Why?
- What do you sow all the time (your words, your actions, your tithe and offering)?

**, CONFESSION FOR THE DAY**

- I REAP MORE THAN I SOW!
- I LISTEN TO THE WORD OF GOD AND RECEIVE IT IN MY HEART!
- I AM BECOMING MORE LIKE JESUS EVERYDAY!

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Father thank you for the Word, I repent for getting offended by the Word, I desire to be who you have called me to be so order my steps in authority and character of Jesus Amen.





*Matthew 6:33 KJV- "Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need."*

**A SEED CAN FEEL INVISIBLE** we see this in Matthew 6. Dudes are showing their giving to everyone!! BIG BILLS YALL!!! Super spiritual praying people - LOOK AT HOW SPIRITUAL I SOUND! Don't come to me acting all spiritual and you don't even serve somewhere. DON'T FAST AND BE LIKE - oh!!! it's so haaaaaaard but I do it for JEEEEESUUUUSSSS!!! - no... your doing it for the "likes."

**DON'T HORDE YOUR MONEY ALL FOR YOURSELF.** Where your treasure is - your heart is. DON'T FOCUS ON YOUR THREADS! What you look like to others. DON'T STRESS ABOUT WHAT IS FOR LUNCH. FIRST... the KINGDOM...

**PRIORITIES** - you can tell a lot about a person by how they spend their time, their energy, their money. **YOU CAN EITHER LIVE YOUR LIFE BY YOUR PRESSURES OR BY PRIORITY.** The Devil wants you to focus on your whole life being about the PRESSURE of being visible:

- **PRESSURE OF NOW:** CRISIS TO CRISIS! EMERGENCY TO EMERGENCY! (I've counseled people addicted to adrenaline - addicted to drama - constantly late because of it too - )  
- **I NEED NOW RESULTS!**
- **PRESSURE OF BEING NOTICED:** how many likes can I get; Am I appreciated? Going to acknowledge me. **I NEED TO BE SEEN NOW!**
- **PRESSURE OF BEING ENOUGH:** AM I GOOD ENOUGH??? - comparison **I NEED TO BE BETTER NOW**

It is unfair comparing your **unseen life** to another's **unrealistic life**. The enemy can distract you by making you focus on how other people are doing (churches, parents, friends). **IF YOU WANT TO LIVE BY PRIORITY AND NOT PRESSURE: You've got to celebrate the steps before you celebrate THE SEEN!** God says - INVEST YOUR TIME, YOUR ENERGY, YOUR EFFORT AND EVEN YOUR TREASURE first into the Kingdom. ***I CAN CELEBRATE THE SEED? CAN I CELEBRATE THE STEPS?*** YEP. u haven't lost the 10 pounds yet... but you got a walk in today and you were tempted to not do it - CELEBRATE the seed.

HEY! You didn't get here on time this week - but you made it to church. CELEBRATE THE SEED. You started giving - you want to give more but you started somewhere. CELEBRATE THE SEED! **PEOPLE CELEBRATE THE SEEN BUT NOT THE UNSEEN.** You are congratulated for a car, but no one claps for the payment. Lose weight you can celebrate, keeping it off - NO ONE SAYS IT- even though you are working just as hard at consistency.

**ONE OF THE WAYS YOU CAN KNOW YOU ARE GETTING GREAT AT YOUR JOB PEOPLE STOP GIVING YOU COMPLIMENTS.** Wife hardly ever says "OH WOW! THAT MESSAGE WAS LIFE CHANGING!" - She used to... she says - that was good. Just like it is every week... consistently good. ***I'M A GOOD PARENT AND I KNOW IT - BUT MY KIDS DON'T THANK ME ALL THE TIME THAT THERE IS A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD... YOU KNOW WHY - THE SEED THAT I SOW IN THEIR LIFE IS INVISIBLE TO THEM... there's food in the fridge!***

WHEN YOU ARE DOING YOUR BEST BUT YOU AREN'T GETTING RECOGNIZED. It makes it hard to want to keep doing it. I'LL BE HONEST... I'm a husband... and when I KNOW I did good... i want to feel noticed and rewarded but it doesn't always happen. I'M A PASTOR - and I want to know I'm the best - but I don't always feel it's seen.

Here's the issue: ***WE CAN STOP SOWING SEEDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND START SOWING SEEDS OF REBELLION*** simply because we feel like, at least there, I'll be seen. At least someone will compliment me.

**We need to make a decision: Who is our audience?** *Matthew 6:2 NLT "When you give to someone in need, don't do as the hypocrites do—blowing trumpets in the synagogues and streets to call attention to their acts of charity! I tell you the truth, they have received all the reward they will ever get."*

#### QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:

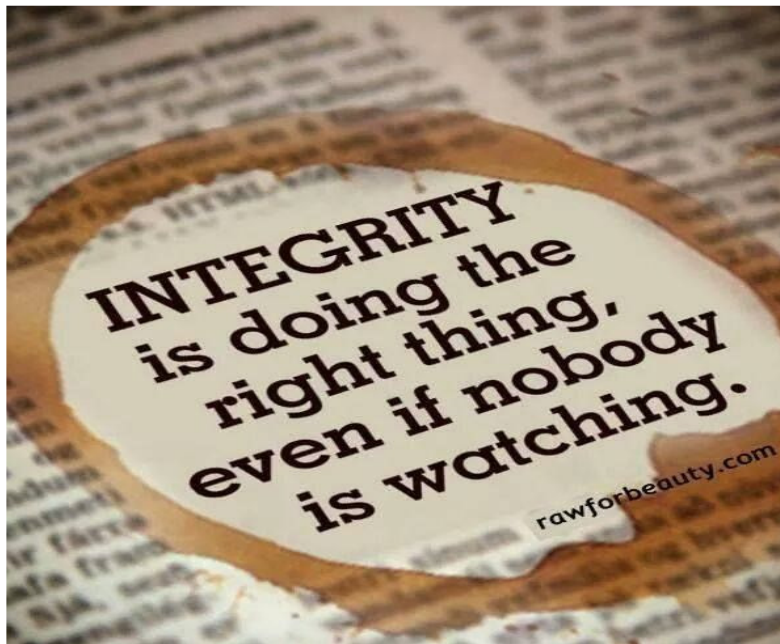
- What moves you to act pressure or priority?
- Who is your audience?

**CONFESSION FOR THE DAY**

- I SOW SEEDS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS!
- I SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD!
- I CELEBRATE EVERY STEP TO MY GOAL!

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Father reveal to me where I need to sow seed in my community, my family and friends in authority and character of Jesus Amen.



*Matthew 6:4b - "Give your gifts in private, and your Father, who sees everything, will reward you."*

**I SOW THE SEED BASED ON MY VALUES / NOT BASED ON VALIDATION.** Say, God will reward me! Say I don't need a trophy! (THAT'S A GOOD BEAT...) IF YOU TRY TO CHASE THE CLAPS YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF ON THE EDGE OF A CLIFF (If you live for applause you will die with criticism).

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN THE VERY PEOPLE YOU SOUGHT FOR APPROVAL ARE GONE! High school / jr highers - see too often young people making decisions for momentary approval. YOU AREN'T GONNA BE FRIENDS WITH BUT ONE KID FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN 6 years! ***We don't graduate from our need for approval when we graduate from high school or college, it just gets way more expensive to do so once you're in your 30's and beyond...***

**YOU CAN'T LET THE AUDIENCE'S APPROVAL STEER YOUR LIFE:** I can't let you steer the sermon because it's usually your quiet times when I say the things that are most significant not when you're cheering and shouting and excited! **THE SEED can FEEL invisible... but it's not.**

**Principle of SEED, TIME AND HARVEST means there is a season... that the seed looks invisible, for example:** give and nothing happens the first week or serve and things seem to get tougher. *2 Corinthians 5:7 - "(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)"* It may seem invisible... but I know it's working!



**YOU SEE A SEED - I SEE A TREE!** BECAUSE IT IS WHAT IT IS - BUT IT'S NOT YET WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE! You see a struggle - I see a victory. You see a problem - I see a promise. You see the trouble - I see the triumph. You see the sacrifice - I see the success! **DON'T JUDGE MY POTENTIAL BY THE SIZE OF MY SEED!**

Faith is the substance of things hoped for the evidence of things NOT SEEN! Cause I don't see it BUT I KNOW THAT IT'S WORKING! *THIS IS MEANTIME FAITH - IT'S IN-BETWEEN FAITH - IT'S FAITH THAT PLANTS WHEN IT'S WINDY!* Ecclesiastes 11:4 - *"He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap."*

- W - when
- I - it's
- N - not
- D - desired

"I don't feel it." "I don't understand it." "I don't see it." I don't have to SEE, I just have to SOW! What do you need to plant today in the soil of your faith?! A seed in your hand will not grow. **And there is a SEASON OF FAITH WHERE THE SEED LOOKS INVISIBLE AND IT'S THE MOST VITAL TIME TO WATER THAT SEED WITH YOUR WORDS!**

*Mark 4:27 - <sup>27</sup> And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.* I used to think that the parable was that God was the farmer, but the FARMER doesn't know how. God knows how.

#### **QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:**

- What Words are you saying over your seed?
- What is the image you have of yourself?

#### **CONFESSION FOR THE DAY**

- I WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT!
- I WATER MY SEED DAILY WITH MY WORDS!
- I AM OBEDIENCE TO FOLLOW GOD WHEREVER HE LEADS ME!

#### **PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Father guide me in the words that I speak over my seed in authority and character of Jesus Amen.

## DAY 4 – THE SEED IS SIGNIFICANT – THE SEED CAN SOMETIMES MAKE YOU FEEL IGNORANT

Pastor Matt



*1 Corinthians 1:27 - "But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world..."*

**THE SEED CAN SOMETIMES MAKE YOU FEEL IGNORANT, say: *I don't know how.*** The farmer doesn't know how it happens. Jesus is like - YEP. Kingdom is like that. There is a part for the farmer to play which is he sows, he waters, he plows.

***HERE'S THE SECRET THAT THE RELIGIOUS ELITE DON'T WANT YOU TO KNOW!*** THEY WANT YOU TO THINK THAT YOU NEED TO FIGURE IT ALL OUT... THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THE ESCHATOLOGICAL WORD AND PRAY FOR 18 HOURS A DAY AND GIVE X AMOUNT OF MONEY... TO BE HOLIER THAN OTHER PEOPLE....

***HERE'S THE SECRET!!!!*** YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW! (Drove my car here... not sure how... BUT I DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IT TO SEE IT WORKING!) IT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM DRIVING IT. IT DIDN'T STOP ME FROM USING IT.

I think there may be people here today that you're waiting to understand HOW God is going to make something work in your life before you step out in faith and sow a seed of faith. **YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW WHEN YOU KNOW WHO!**

Min. Gail was in the hospital and the nurses in the hallway were telling me "THIS IS REALLY BAD. I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD GO IN." I went in and prayed for her I told the nurses "DON'T WORRY. I'LL BE ALRIGHT AND SHE'LL BE OUT SOON." HOW DID THAT SUDDEN TURN AROUND HAPPEN? - I don't know HOW!!! the docs don't know HOW!! ***I DON'T NEED TO KNOW HOW WHEN I KNOW WHO!***

*SOMETIMES I SEEM FOOLISH...* To confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world. *But you're so strong!* To confound the things which are mighty;" God I'm not smart enough. I've never done this before. This is new to me. I haven't lived a perfect life. I feel like a rookie about this.

**PRIDEFUL PEOPLE** hunger and thirst for recognition - "I KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT HERE."

**Humble people** hunger and thirst after righteousness - "GOD, I WANT TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT BY YOU HERE!"

**DON'T LET WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW TO KEEP YOU FROM SOWING!** I've got to give. I've got to show up in the house of the Lord. I've got to speak a word of encouragement to someone today. I'VE GOT TO BE USED IN MIRACLES SIGNS AND WONDERS. I'VE GOT TO SHARE A WORD THAT IS ON MY HEART WITH SOMEONE.

HOW DOES THAT WORK? HOW AM I GOING TO GET MY RETURN? HOW DOES GOD USE IT?

**I don't always know - but I've got to sow!**

**I don't always know - but I've got to sow!**

*"Although he doesn't know how"* - I think this is one of the clearest depictions of the kingdom. I don't always know how but I always know who. The doctors aren't exactly sure how God healed me, but I know that he did. I'm not always sure how God's going to get the blessing to me, but I know that it always comes.

**YOU CANNOT GROW IF YOU WAIT TO SOW! GROWTH IS CHOSEN.** Are you so grown in your body, but so small in your spirit, that one person's opinion can push you off your purpose? Don't wait till you know to sow... it's too late.

**PETER ON THE BOAT - I want to bless you with fish. Can I use your boat.** "Well... I don't know how... but I'll sow it anyway." You don't need to know you just need to trust and obey Jesus - All I need is your seed. All I need is your surrender.

**FEEDING 5000 - but how? Just give me what's in your hands...** "Well, we don't get it I but I'll sow it anyway." Kept moving, kept multiplying, kept happening.

**MARY - but how? BE IT UNTO ME AS YOU SAY!** I HEARKEN and BEHOLD THE SEED. LET ME SOW THE WORD. Blessed ABRAHAM - I don't know where I'm going or why... **I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW - I JUST HAVE TO SOW! I DON'T HAVE TO KNOW - I JUST HAVE TO GO!**

Back to Mark 4:28 - <sup>28</sup> *For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.* God knows the order things need to happen. **RIGHT NOW IT'S JUST A BLADE** yeah but before it was a seed. *It's just an ear*, yeah but before it was a blade.

Trust and obedience are not just TRUSTING JESUS with the WHAT but also with the WHEN.

Sometimes Jesus shows up in the midnight hour. Sometimes He shows up early at wedding parties! GOD IS A GOD OF ORDER! I enter his gates with thanksgiving you ain't getting much out of church if you miss this!!

THE SEED STARTED AS A SEED. THEN IT WAS A BLADE...THEN AN EAR... **IT IS WHAT IT IS, BUT IT'S NOT YET WHAT IT WILL BECOME!** **IT IS WHAT IT IS, BUT IT'S NOT YET WHAT IT WILL BE!**

**QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:**

- Have you decided to sow?
- How do you see the seed?

**CONFESSION FOR THE DAY**

- I DON'T KNOW HOW BUT I SOW SEED!
- MY STEPS ARE ORDERED BY GOD!
- I SOW AND SEE THE OUTCOME OF MY SEED!

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Father lead and guide me in my sowing in the church, community, workplace and my family in authority and character of Jesus Amen.



*Mark 4:29 -32 KJV- <sup>29</sup> But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come. <sup>30</sup> And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: **(FEELS INSIGNIFICANT)** <sup>32</sup> But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.*

**A SEED CAN FEEL INSIGNIFICANT.** You can create your own insecurities by living in your illusion. YOU WILL HAVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE AND YOU SPEAK! (Life and death in the power of the tongue). A SEED IS SIGNIFICANT UNLESS IT'S NOT. If you DECIDE your seed is simple it won't accomplish much...

**TO THE DISCIPLES - 4 LOAVES AND 2 FISH WAS INSIGNIFICANT** - but planting it in the hands of the Master made the seed sown GROW! **A SAMARITAN WOMAN IN ILLICIT RELATIONSHIPS AT A WELL SEEMS INSIGNIFICANT** - but planting her in the hands of the Master made her the greatest Samaritan revivalist in Jesus' time.

**A KID NAMED TIMOTHY WHO WASN'T ALLOWED IN THE TEMPLE BECAUSE OF HIS BACKGROUND SEEMED INSIGNIFICANT** - but sowing his life into the hands of the master - God used him to grow Ephesus and be an example to the entire church of faithfulness! **YOU NEED TO SEE SIGNIFICANCE IN THE SEED!**

Seeds can feel insignificant... they can lie dormant for a while... it can seem like it's such a tiny seed... Mustard seed seems insignificant - but I know it's not just a seed - IT'S A TREE IN PRE-PLANTED FORM! THE KEY TO FAITH IS THAT IT MUST BE RELEASED - IT NEEDS TO BE SOWN! THERE IS A TREE IN YOUR SEED ~ DON'T JUDGE MY POTENTIAL BY THE SIZE OF MY SEED! **YOUR SEED, IN THE DIRT, IS SIGNIFICANT!**

**Jesus knew... that the seed in the dirt was significant.** The seed in the dirt had a purpose to fulfill... Jesus knew what was happening... he was on his way to give up His life... to have dirt thrown at Him... and to be a SEED put in the dirt... BUT THE SEED IN THE DIRT WAS SIGNIFICANT...

THE DEVIL SAID THAT WAS IT... THE DEVIL SAID THAT HE WON... **THAT JESUS WAS IGNORANT AND FELL TO THE PEOPLE HE USED... THAT JESUS WAS IN THE GROUND AND INVISIBLE NOW TO HIS FOLLOWERS... THAT JESUS WAS INSIGNIFICANT ACCORDING TO HIS POWER...**

But nails couldn't hold Him down... The grave couldn't keep Him in... HELL COULDN'T KEEP HIM OUT... **BECAUSE JESUS WASN'T BURIED - HE WAS PLANTED!** THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN BURIED AND PLANTED IS THE EXPECTATION OF HARVEST!

This movement that started small - would blossom into a movement that changed the whole world! *Galatians 2:20 KJV - "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."*

So if you feel like it's just another Sunday... and your service is insignificant:

- YOUR SERVING ISN'T BURIED - IT'S PLANTED
- YOUR GIVING ISN'T BURIED - IT'S PLANTED
- THAT TIME IN THAT RELATIONSHIP WASN'T JUST BURIED - IT WAS PLANTED
- PRAYING WITH PEOPLE ISN'T WASTED AND BURIED - IT'S PLANTED
- YOUR DREAM ISN'T BURIED - IT'S PLANTED!!!
- YOUR GIFTS AREN'T BURIED - THEY'RE PLANTED!!

*Your seed isn't buried - it's planted!* **AND WHEN JESUS ROSE FROM THAT TOMB - AS THE FIRST SEED PLANTED** HE RESURRECTED ME!

*Romans 8:11 KJV - "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."*

**YOUR SEED IS PLANTED! YOUR SEED IS SIGNIFICANT! GOD SEES YOUR SEED! RESURRECTION IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!**

#### **QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:**

- What have you been speaking about your seed?
- How has this message changed your way of thinking?



**CONFESSION FOR THE DAY**

- MY SEED IS PLANTED!
- MY GIVING IS PLANTED!
- MY SERVING IS PLANTED!

**PRAYER FOR THE DAY**

Father thank you FOR PLANTING Jesus so that I can now be planted and fulfill what you have called me to be in authority and character of Jesus Amen.