

You Must Sow First – Bible Study Lesson

Before we start, we will make this confession:

In the name of Jesus, I boldly declare that Jesus is Lord of this Earth. The world and all of its fullness belong to God. I claim and receive everything Jesus' death and resurrection made available to me. I am living in the overflow. I have a surplus of prosperity. I have more than enough. I am blessed beyond measure. My cup is running over. I am furnished in abundance. I receive multiple streams of income. My storehouses are full and overflowing. The Lord is helping me to guard the door of my mouth. And I will not speak against His favor at work in my life. I am increasing more and more. The floodgates of heaven are opened, and THE BLESSING is pouring out. There is not room enough to contain it all. I am experiencing "THE OVERFLOW"!

Genesis 26:1-5 (NASB)

26 Now there was a famine in the land, besides the previous famine that had occurred in the days of Abraham. So Isaac went to Gerar, to Abimelech king of the Philistines.

2 And the Lord appeared to him and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

3 Live for a time in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.

4 I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed,

5 because Abraham obeyed Me and fulfilled his duty to Me, and kept My commandments, My statutes, and My laws."

Genesis 26:12-13 (NASB)

12 Now Isaac sowed in that land and reaped in the same year a hundred times as much. And the Lord blessed him,

13 and the man became rich, and continued to grow richer until he became very wealthy;

Have you ever thought maybe you were born into the wrong family, in wrong time period, or at least in the wrong neighborhood? If you answered yes to any of these, you are not alone. However, the one thing we need to grasp is this. **GOD NEVER MAKES MISTAKES.** He always positions us exactly where we're supposed to be.

Remember, everything is either a seed or a harvest. What we do with the seed and the harvest are vitally important. That's why critical to follow God's instructions with them. Positioning in many cases is as important as the instructions you receive. God will always position us with the potential to be blessed and prosperous. **Why? So that we can be a blessing and advance His Kingdom agenda.**

Isaac was thinking, "Surely I'm in the wrong place. There's a famine here. I'll just go down to Egypt." God says, "I have you in the right place." It was God's will to bless Abraham and all his descendants. Isaac was his descendant. So, the blessing was on him. It wasn't on the place he was in. It was on Isaac. **HOWEVER, HE HAD TO GIVE GOD SOMETHING TO BLESS AND PROSPER.** He sowed in that land. **THEN,** in the same year he reaped 100 times more **AND** the Lord blessed him. God's will was accomplished. But Isaac had to do something. With this in mind, let's examine: **You Must Sow First.**

Ecclesiastes 11:4 (NLT)

4 Farmers who wait for perfect weather never plant. If they watch every cloud, they never harvest.

Esther 4:13-14 (NLT)

13 Mordecai sent this reply to Esther: "Don't think for a moment that because you're in the palace you will escape when all other Jews are killed.

14 If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen for just such a time as this?"

The challenge with sowing is that it will never feel like the right time to sow. The right time is always now! Your seed is anything that can help or bless someone else. In this scripture, Esther wasn't sowing her money or her possessions. She was literally making herself an offering to be accepted or rejected by the king. Too often, we fail to sow because of the perceived risks involved. It's a place of cognitive dissonance. **WE KNOW WE NEED A WAY OUT AND THAT WAY IS THE SEED. BUT WE JUST DON'T WANT TO SOW IT.**

1. You must sow first at the right time.

2 Kings 4:8-10 (NLT)

8 One day Elisha went to the town of Shunem. A wealthy woman lived there, and she urged him to come to her home for a meal. After that, whenever he passed that way, he would stop there for something to eat.

9 She said to her husband, "I am sure this man who stops in from time to time is a holy man of God.

10 Let's build a small room for him on the roof and furnish it with a bed, a table, a chair, and a lamp. Then he will have a place to stay whenever he comes by."

God always knows what we need. The Shunemite woman was wealthy financially. But she was barren physically. It is possible to have money and still be broke. It is possible to have a lot of things and still be unfulfilled. But, God had her at the right place at the right time. Remember, someone near you is the soil qualified to receive your seed. She needed a blessing. So, she became a blessing. In return, she reaped a harvest of blessings. **IF YOU SOW INTO ABUNDANCE, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO STAY BARREN.**

2. You must sow first in the right soil.

Joshua 2:9 (NLT)

9 “I know the Lord has given you this land,” she told them. “We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror.

Joshua 2:15 (NLT)

15 Then, since Rahab’s house was built into the town wall, she let them down by a rope through the window.

Never let anyone despise or talk down where you are right now. You are in the right position, right now. The enemy sends contrary voices, so we will get in agreement with them, that we’re not in a position significant enough that our seed will make a difference. It’s hard to move from the place we have gotten into agreement with. Rahab was a prostitute. But, her house was strategically positioned on the wall. **GOD USED A PROSTITUTE TO COVER HIS PEOPLE. IF WE FAST FORWARD SHE BECOMES ONE OF THE WOMEN MENTIONED IN THE LINEAGE OF JESUS.**

3. You must sow first in the right position.

1 Kings 17:13-16 (NLT)

13 But Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid! Go ahead and do just what you’ve said, but make a little bread for me first. Then use what’s left to prepare a meal for yourself and your son.

14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There will always be flour and olive oil left in your containers until the time when the Lord sends rain and the crops grow again!”

15 So she did as Elijah said, and she and Elijah and her family continued to eat for many days.

16 There was always enough flour and olive oil left in the containers, just as the Lord had promised through Elijah.

God said He will always give seed to the sower. God will always position us with the seed that will produce the harvest that we need. The widow needed food. She didn’t need money. There was a drought and not enough

food. So, money wouldn't have been the harvest she needed. Thus, a money seed was not her answer. She needed food. So, she sowed bread. **AS LONG AS SHE CONTINUED TO SOW MEAL, SHE CONTINUED TO REAP MEAL. SHE, ELIJAH & HER FAMILY ATE EVERY DAY!!!**

4. You must sow first the right seed.

Genesis 50:18-20 (NLT)

18 Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

19 But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you?"

20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people.

Joseph was beaten up by his brothers, sold into slavery, lied on, and put in prison. All of this occurred so he would be in the right position to move into the palace. There is a difference between responsibility and authority. Joseph was faithful in every responsibility. So, he was granted great authority. He arrived at a place where God put him in a position to either help or hurt the people who had wronged him. **HOW YOU TREAT PEOPLE WHO HAVE WRONGED YOU IS OFTEN A CLUE TO WHETHER OR NOT YOU CAN HANDLE THE HARVEST.**

5. You must sow first when the right opportunity is presented.

Remember, everything is either a seed or a harvest. What we do with the seed and the harvest are vitally important. That's why critical to follow God's instructions with them. God will always position us with the potential to be blessed and prosperous. However: **You Must Sow First.**