

The Holy Seed of Resurrection

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Every year, as spring breaks through the cold grip of winter, gardeners and farmers alike turn their attention to the earth. They till the soil, plant their seeds, and wait. In time, what was once a small, seemingly insignificant seed transforms into something far greater—a plant, a tree, or a crop that will yield a harvest. The process is full of mystery and wonder. But what if, one day, you unearthed a seed that had been dormant for years, even millennia? Could such a seed still bring forth new life?

This is exactly what happened when archaeologists uncovered an ancient Egyptian tomb and discovered a mummy holding a palm tree seed in its hand—estimated to be 2,000 years old. Some scholars debated whether the seed could still be alive, as the typical lifespan of a seed is much shorter than 2,000 years. If a farmer were to encounter this situation, they would offer a simple solution: “Plant it in the ground, and you will see.” The seed was planted, and to the amazement of all, it sprouted, giving life where no one expected it.

This remarkable discovery offers a powerful metaphor for the gospel. Just as the seed, dormant for thousands of years, was revived when placed in the right soil, the gospel of Jesus Christ, though it may sometimes appear dormant or neglected, is full of life. It is a seed that has the power to transform, to give new life, and to bring resurrection. When the gospel is planted in the hearts of those ready to receive it, it will bear fruit. The message of Christ’s resurrection is the holy seed we are called to plant. It transforms hearts, renews lives, and offers hope to a world in need.

As a church, we are called to sow the seed of resurrection. We are not merely keepers of this seed, but distributors of it. We are to share this message of life with the world, knowing that, even though not everyone will receive it, there will be those who will embrace it, and from that embrace, new life will spring forth. This morning, we will reflect on what it means to be a church that sows the seed of resurrection, exploring the call of God through the prophet Isaiah and the apostle Paul’s reminder of the gospel that saves.

Isaiah's call to ministry in Isaiah 6 is a powerful moment of divine revelation. He is granted a vision of God's glory and hears the seraphim declaring God's holiness. Overwhelmed by his sense of unworthiness, Isaiah is chosen by God to be a prophet. However, his mission will not lead to immediate success; God tells him the people will not listen or understand, and his message will seem ignored. Despite this, God assures Isaiah that there will be a faithful remnant—a holy seed—that will endure.

Isaiah's call serves as a lesson for the church today. We are called to plant the gospel seed, even when not everyone receives it. There will be resistance and rejection, and at times, it may seem as though the seed falls on barren ground. But God promises that a faithful remnant will emerge, and our task is not to judge the soil but to faithfully sow the seed, trusting that God will bring forth the harvest.

The message of resurrection, like the seed Isaiah planted, does not always yield immediate results. But just as a seed requires time to sprout, so too does the gospel grow and bear fruit in God's time. We are called to trust in the power of the gospel, knowing that it will take root and flourish in the hearts of those ready to receive it.

In 1 Corinthians 15, Paul reminds the Corinthians of the core message of the gospel—the gospel of the resurrection. He emphasizes that this gospel is the foundation of our faith and the key to our salvation. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is not just a doctrine or theological concept; it is the very heart of the Christian faith. Paul reminds the church that Christ died for our sins, was buried, and on the third day, he was raised from the dead. This is the gospel we preach and the seed we are called to plant in the world.

Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15 are both a reminder and a challenge. The gospel that saves is the gospel of resurrection. It is the message that death does not have the final word, that through Christ's death and resurrection, we have the hope of eternal life. This gospel is not just a message of life after death; it is a message of life in the here and now. The resurrection is the seed of new life, and as followers of Christ, we are called to plant this seed in the hearts of those around us.

Paul also stresses the importance of standing firm in this gospel. In a world filled with competing philosophies and ideologies, it is easy to become distracted or swayed by new teachings. But Paul warns the church that there is only one gospel that saves—the gospel of Jesus Christ. Any other gospel is a distortion of the truth, and those who follow it are led astray. The gospel of the resurrection is not something we can change or modify. It is the unshakable foundation of our faith, and it is the seed we are called to plant and nurture.

In this context, we are reminded of the power of the resurrection seed. Just as a seed grows in the ground and produces fruit, so too does the gospel grow in the hearts of those who receive it. The seed of resurrection is not just a message; it is a transformative power that changes lives. When we plant this seed in the hearts of others, we are not just giving them information; we are offering them new life. The gospel is a living seed, and when it is planted in fertile soil, it brings forth a harvest of righteousness, peace, and joy.

To pass the seed on to others, we must first bear the fruit of the seed ourselves. In order to bear fruit, we must plant the seed in our own hearts. We need to plant the resurrection of Christ in our hearts each day. As we remember and give thanks for the hope of Christ’s resurrection, the seed of resurrection will grow in our hearts, bear fruit in our lives, and enable us to pass on the seeds of our lives to others.

Isaiah’s response to God’s call is one of faith and obedience. When God asks, “Whom shall I send?” Isaiah immediately replies, “Here am I! Send me.” His willingness, despite the daunting task, models how we must respond to the gospel. We are called to go, plant, and trust God to bring the increase. Similarly, Paul’s transformation from a persecutor to an advocate for Christ illustrates the gospel’s power to change hearts. We are called to share that same transformative power with the world.

Our response to the gospel must be one of faith, obedience, and action. We are not called to keep the seed of resurrection to ourselves. We are called to plant it, share it, and live as witnesses to the power of new life in Christ. The gospel is not just something we believe; it is something we live. We are the vessels through which the holy seed of resurrection is spread throughout the world.

We must also remember that the harvest is not always immediate. There are times when the seed will fall on hard soil. There will be times when we sow, and it seems as though nothing is growing. But we must trust in the power of the seed, knowing that God will bring the harvest in divine time. The gospel that saves is a holy seed, and it will grow, even when we cannot see it.

The holy seed of resurrection is a mysterious, living force. It is the message of new life, the promise that death is not the end, but the beginning of something new. As a church, we are called to sow this seed—faithfully, boldly, and without hesitation. We are not called to judge the soil; we are called to plant the seed and trust that God will bring forth the harvest.

May we, like Isaiah and Paul, who first planted the holy seed in our hearts, live as witnesses to the power of the gospel, sharing the holy seed of resurrection with the world, knowing that in God's time, it will bear fruit. Amen.