

## The Gardener Confronts Our Fruit.

### Introduction



### 1. Retracing the Movement: follow the Trail of DNA.

#### How did it all begin?

Luke 8:1-8, 11-15.

- A field experiment with only one variable: same seed, same sower, same time, same weather but *different soils*, over broad territory.



- “..but some fell on good soil..”
- Context of mission movements, sodality structures, “apostolic bands”.
- The incredible work of God’s Holy Spirit in the lives of “good soil” people ....disciples truly following Jesus.
- NOTE: it is the nature of the soil that determines the final outcome and ultimate fruitfulness.



#### 1a. Who was the primary audience for this parable?

#### 1b. What stood out to those ‘sent-ones’ as they went out to “sow”?

#### 2. Premise: Jesus Was Intentionally Building a Movement not just a Ministry.



#### 2a. Ministry or Movement.

“Building movements everywhere so that everyone knows someone who truly follows Jesus.”



#### Characteristics of movements of God.

- Passionate commitment= extraordinary prayer, heart-felt worship, courageous obedience, life transforming discipleship.
- Abundant evangelism –heart connecting with the lost.
- Authority of Scripture.



- Bold expectant faith.
- Multiplication and mobilization of Lay leadership.
- Rapid reproduction - out of control!
- Experiential: not simply intellectual, conceptual, institutional. Personal experience of the presence of God – immanence as well as transcendence.



## 2b. Moving from Ministry to Movements.

### Four Components of a movement:

1. Connecting with the lost - in emotionally engaging, personally insightful, intellectually stimulating and culturally relevant ways (John 4).



2. Life-changing discipleship – radical surrender, purposeful mission, growing Christ-like character.
3. Multiplying Leaders *for* and *from* the harvest. [multiplying *movement leaders* not just ministry leaders/managers...there is a difference]
4. Sending multiplying leaders to “scatter seed” seeking “good soil”.



1+2 = Ministry = Very Good!  
 1+2+3 = Movement = Great!  
 1+2+3+4 =  
 Multiple Movements = Greatest!

The critical factor: empowerment and multiplication of disciplemaking law people as movement builders = leaders.



## 3. Jesus Confronts Our Fruit.

- Jesus was serious about fruitfulness. Lk 13:6-9. Jn 15:2.
- Context: subsistence agriculture is about reproduction not recreation.
- Jesus is not a ‘hobby farmer’.
- Reproduction/multiplication is a sign of health.



- Maximum reproduction –quality *and* quantity - is the goal of the gardener, and anything that limits that is an obstacle to be removed.



### 3a. Two images:

1. Vine and Vinedresser. Jn 15.  
“no fruit” > “fruit” > “more fruit” > “much fruit”



### 2. Sower and the soils. Lk 8.

- What is keeping *me* from personal reproduction of disciple-makers?
- What is keeping *our team* from leadership reproduction?
- What is keeping *our ministry* from movement reproduction?



### 3b. God’s Miracle of Multiplication: factor and frequency over time.

People, Wheat, rice, cells and rabbits.  
Multiplication of disciple-makers is  
the key to the GREAT work of  
movement building.



### 4. Jesus Confronts Our Priorities: From Good To Great.

John 17:3. Mt 6:33. Lk 10:4.  
Nehemiah 6:3, 15 “I am involved in a  
*great work*, so I can’t come. Why  
should I stop working to come and  
meet with you? ...So ...the wall was  
finished – just 52 days after we had  
began.”



“If the Devil can’t get us to disobey  
God, he gets us so busy so that we  
can’t obey God.”

The progressive challenge of weeds  
and thorns in the soil.

Moving from the good to the great: *What  
are the good things keeping you busy so  
that you can’t obey God in the great work  
of movement building?*



### 5. Jesus Confronts Our Comfortable Boundaries & Scope.

- Movement building leaders have  
an expansionist vision beyond the  
horizon.
- Jesus stretched his ‘small town  
disciples’ beyond their ‘small town  
vision’.



- Avoid the danger of sequentialism.  
Acts 1:8
- “The resources to reach the harvest are to be found in the harvest” – Cole.  
Acts 8:1,4,26; 11:19-21 :further “scattering”



“Therefore God suffered them to be persecuted, that thereby they might be dispersed in the world, sown as seed to God, in order to their bringing forth much fruit. Thus what was intended for the hurt of the church, was made to work for its good... **The enemies designed to scatter and lose them, Christ designed to scatter and use them.**” - Matthew Henry



## 6. Blessed Eyes. Luke 10.



## 7. Conclusion

Qualities of “Good Soil” people.

Luke 14:25-35



What did Jesus build and cultivate in the character and commitments of his leaders?

- Unrivalled devotion, Unbridled Passion
- Total Surrender
- Desperate daily dependence
- Salty Singularity: Press On

**WE SEEK HIS FACE AND HIS GLORY**

