



## 8. THE FUNCTION OF REPRODUCTION

The Vineyard Church of Conroe

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### Sermon Notes

#### **The Mark of Jesus ALWAYS AIMS AT BRINGING RESURRECTION LIFE**

*May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. <sup>15</sup> Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. <sup>16</sup> Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. <sup>17</sup> From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.*

*Galatians 6:14-17*

#### **The Resurrection Life IS A LIFE OF REPRODUCTION**

*Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. John 12:24*

#### **I. Mark 4:1-25**

...<sup>2</sup> He taught them many things by parables, and in his teaching said: <sup>3</sup> “Listen! A farmer went out to sow his seed. <sup>4</sup> As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. <sup>5</sup> Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. <sup>6</sup> But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. <sup>7</sup> Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants, so that they did not bear grain. <sup>8</sup> Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up, grew and produced a crop, some multiplying thirty, some sixty, some a hundred times.” <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said, “Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear.” ...<sup>24</sup> “Consider carefully what you hear,” he continued. “With the measure you use, it will be measured to you—and even more. <sup>25</sup> Whoever has will be given more; whoever does not have, even what

they have will be taken from them.”

## **Reproduction REQUIRES THAT WE SOW GENEROUSLY BECAUSE WE WILL EXPERIENCE FAILURE AND SUCCESS**

*Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. <sup>7</sup> Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. <sup>8</sup> And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6-8*

### **II. Mark 4:26-29**

<sup>26</sup> He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. <sup>27</sup> Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. <sup>28</sup> All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. <sup>29</sup> As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

## **Reproduction IS A FUNCTION OF GOD’S POWER AND HAPPENS BEYOND OUR CONTROL**

*So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. <sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. <sup>9</sup> For we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building. 2 Corinthians 3:7-9*

### **III. Mark 4:30-34**

<sup>30</sup> Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup> Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.” <sup>33</sup> With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. <sup>34</sup> He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.

## **Reproduction OFTEN STARTS WITH SMALL BEGINNINGS**

*Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin... Zechariah 4:10a NLT*