

“A Glorious Grain of Wheat” John 12:24-34

I. See seeds (a grain of wheat is a seed) for the wonderful creation and gift of God that they are –

24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. John 12:24 (NKJV)

1. Our Lord Jesus spoke a great deal about plants and SEEDS comparing God’s Kingdom, Himself, and God’s Word to seeds –

26 And He said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, 27 and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. 28 For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. 29 But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” Mark 4:26–29 (NKJV)

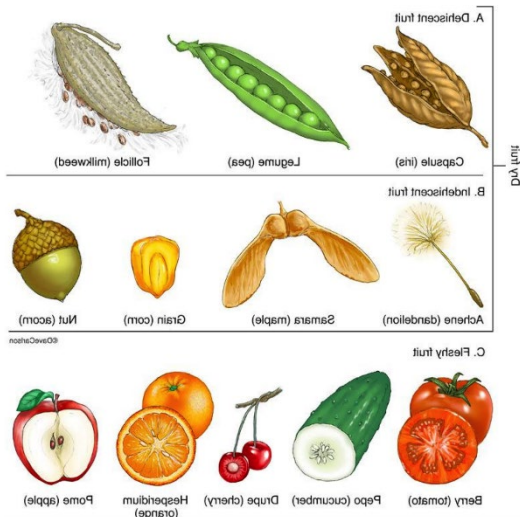
A. One important thing to know is in Mark 4:27 “... he himself does not know how.”

The scatterer of SEED does not know how the SEEDS grow and sprout... and scientists today still have not figured this out!

B. Yes, we have built computers and smart phones, but a seed is more advanced –

DNA is information, every living thing has it, like an instruction book you might find with a computer, but much more than the modern instruction books, which tell you how to “QUICK START” something DNA tells you everything.

2. What we do know about seeds is wonderful -



A peach seed will produce a peach tree, tomato seeds a tomato plant, a sequoia seed produces a Giant sequoia tree, oranges, apples, dandelions, and many, many others, something tiny becomes BIG!

For decades engineers have tried to duplicate the way plants convert sunlight into fuel, but they are still a long way off! That is nothing compared to their reproductive abilities, imagine ...

“Seeds are masterpieces of micro-miniaturization! Inside each seed is a little baby, a little embryonic plant. It already has leaves, a stem and a root; surrounded by seed-coat and filled with

all kinds of receptors listening into environmental signals, so it knows: what temperature, what moisture conditions, how much oxygen? All these things have to be present before it will sprout.” Dr. Gary Parker

Jesus tells us, a grain of wheat must die, to reproduce but that reproduction results in “much grain” food for us!

II. Here Jesus compares Himself to seed / grain because He was a different kind of King, ruling over a different kingdom –

1. First a general principle –

²⁵ He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. John 12:25 (NKJV)

A. *Something most adults already know, we are going to die, we cannot hold onto THIS LIFE, we are going to lose it. Loving here is not so much speaking of enjoyment, loving here is speaking of HANGING ON!*

B. *Hating, does not mean being miserable, but rather holding the things here with a loose grip, or no grip at all! Why? Because you have something better –*

² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:2 (NKJV)

2. *Jesus' servants will be with Him –*

²⁶ If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor. John 12:26 (NKJV) *If willing to die with Him? We also multiply and live with Him!*

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church" Tertullian

3. *As a man Jesus had the same soul troubling fear of death most men do, but it was not controlling Him –*

²⁷ "Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour. John 12:27

God's will, a desire to glorify God was controlling Jesus. Ultimately, He would glorify God by His soul-saving, life-giving death on the cross.

He (unlike other kings) would not rule by WAR (brute force & killing others) but by righteousness, obedience to God and self-sacrifice, His death on the cross to save us from sin!

III. God's glory and Christ's cross –

²⁸ Father, glorify Your name." Then a voice came from heaven, *saying*, "I have both glorified *it* and will glorify *it* again." ²⁹ Therefore the people who stood by and heard *it* said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to Him." ³⁰ Jesus answered and said, "**This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake.** ³¹ **Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.** ³² **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.**" ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die. ³⁴ The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how *can* You say, '**The Son of Man must be lifted up**'? Who is this Son of Man?" John 12:28–34 (NKJV)

1. Jesus' ultimate goal was to glorify God -

²⁸ Father, glorify Your name." *Here, Jesus is praying that God would be glorified by His cross!*

2. *God answers Jesus, "I have both glorified it and will glorify it again."*

A. *The crowd with Jesus hears God the Father speak to Jesus! They acknowledge, the Voice...*

B. *Everything Jesus did, His entire life lived for God, and His death (showing great obedience to God the Father) glorified God! God had glorified Jesus, giving Him this great task- saving sinful human beings, and would in raising Him from the dead, making Him KING of kings, in His ascension to Heaven!*

3. *Jesus mentions the judgement of this world, its ruler (Satan) being cast out –*

³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. John 12:31

A. *Even at this time in Jesus' life the ungodly world was manifesting their guilt, in their desire and determination to kill Jesus –*

⁵³ Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death. John 11:53 (NKJV)

B. *Their guilt is manifest as they were battling against God's goodness –*

³¹ Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³² Jesus answered them, "Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?" John 10:31–32 (NKJV)

These good deeds, miracles & healings were manifest even before He raised Lazarus, their evil is shown in that they opposed and would even killed someone Who was doing "good" –

³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. ³⁹ And we are witnesses of all things which He did both in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem, whom they killed by hanging on a tree. Acts 10:38–39 (NKJV)

C. *Their guilt is seen in their doubting and denying of Jesus' Sonship –*

³³ The Jews answered Him, saying, "For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God." John 10:33 (NKJV)

D. *Their guilt is seen in their extreme anger, and extreme means they use against Him –*

19 So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. ² And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. ³ Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands. ⁴ Pilate then went out again, and said to them, "Behold, I am bringing Him out to you, that you may know that I find no fault in Him." ⁵ Then Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe. And Pilate said to them, "Behold the Man!" ⁶ Therefore, when the chief priests and officers saw Him, they cried out, saying, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!" ... John 19:1–6A (NKJV)

Today we put away the worst of criminals with a relatively painless lethal injection, but for Jesus, for Christ, sinners were not satisfied with less than the cross! Two errors are seen in this: (1) Ease with those who deserve pain. (2) Cruelty toward He Who was innocent and righteous.

E. *Their extreme sin is shown in that their hatred for Jesus spills over to others –*

¹⁰ But the chief priests plotted to put Lazarus to death also, ¹¹ because on account of him many of the Jews went away and believed in Jesus. John 12:10–11 (NKJV)

Christ's cross righteously exposes all this sin of men and thus glorifies God's justice!

4. *Yet, the great glory of Christ's cross is its saving power –*

³² **And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.** ³³ This He said, signifying by what death He would die. ³⁴ The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, '**The Son of Man must be lifted up**'? Who is this Son of Man?" John 12:28–34 (NKJV)

A. It saves all peoples drawing them to Jesus –

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "*The just shall live by faith.*" Romans 1:16–17 (NKJV)

B. Christ's cross saves us by humbling us, showing us our sin –

¹⁰ As it is written: "*There is none righteous, no, not one;* ¹¹ *There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.* ¹² *They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.*" ¹³ "*Their throat is an open tomb; With their tongues they have practiced deceit*"; "*The poison of asps is under their lips*"; ¹⁴ "*Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness.*" ¹⁵ "*Their feet are swift to shed blood;* ¹⁶ *Destruction and misery are in their ways;* ¹⁷ *And the way of peace they have not known.*" ¹⁸ "*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*" ¹⁹ Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. ²⁰ Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. Romans 3:10–20 (NKJV)

C. *But since Christ died, His death is graciously counted by God a PAYMENT of the penalty our sins deserved –*

²¹ But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, ²² even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference; ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3:21–26 (NKJV)

Christ is the Grain of Wheat, He falls in the ground, seeming dead!

His Body is the Bread of Life, by which we salvation are fed –

³⁵ And Jesus said to them, "**I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.**" John 6:35 (NKJV)

IV. We are called to follow Christ and take up our own crosses -

²⁶ **If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will be also. If anyone serves Me, him My Father will honor.** John 12:26 (NKJV)

*"Across the will of nature Leads on the path of God;
Not where the flesh delighteth The feet of Jesus trod.
O bliss to leave behind us The fetters of the slave,
To leave ourselves behind us, The grave-clothes and the grave!"*

Tersteegen

Arnold A. Brevick