

The Multiplied Life

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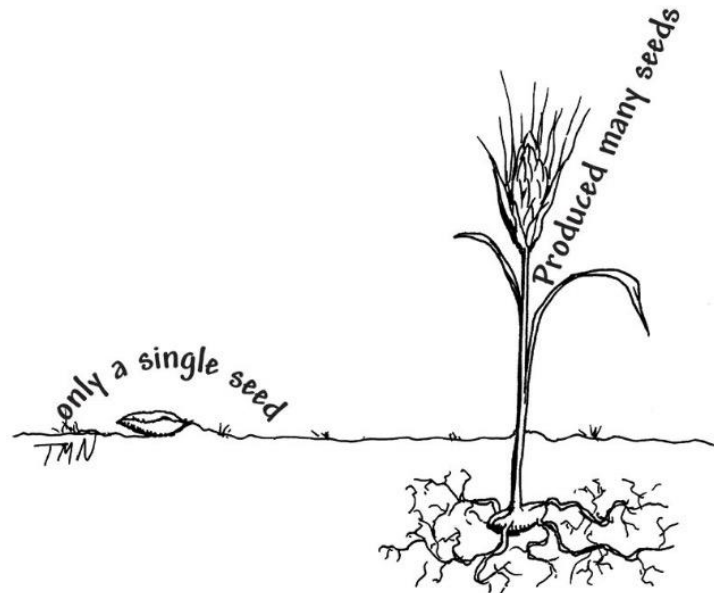
Read John 12:24-26. Using a seed's "death," Jesus teaches the principle of multiplication through selfless investment in others.

In verses 24-25, what are the two choices for the kernel of wheat, and for you?

What are the results of each choice?

In verse, 25, what is the truth Jesus illustrated with the seed?

If you "love" your life and relationships, motivated primarily by personal gain and self-interest, you will actually lose your life – God's purpose for you. However, when you plant your life in others in order to help them grow stronger in Jesus, teaching them to plant their lives in others, God multiplies the seeds of your spiritual influence many times. You "hate" personal gain in this world, and you keep your invested life for eternity.



John 12:26 says that if you serve Jesus, you must follow Him on the same path He walked: death and then resurrection. You "hate" your life in this temporal world, take up your cross, "lose" your life for His sake, and gain everything of eternal worth. When you live like this, you are sensitive to the Holy Spirit's nudges that direct you where He wants you to be. You experience the same type of multiplied influence, as well as honor from the Father, that Christ experienced through His death and resurrection.

Who are the people in your life in whom you can invest what you know about Jesus?

...anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. Matthew 10:38-39.

In other words: If your first concern is to look after yourself, you'll never find yourself. But if you forget about yourself and look to me, you'll find both yourself and me. Matthew 10:39 (The Message)

"It is no fool who loses what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." Jim Elliot, missionary martyred in Ecuador.

Later in this module (devotions), you'll consider daily choices that will help you "gain what you cannot lose."