Parables Lesson 22 Handout

1 Corinthians 3:6
"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow."

He causes the growth.

He wanted normal every day people to be the ones to get the message of salvation out into the world.

If you were going to follow a Rabbi the goal would be to LOOK like them – EMULATE them – LEARN from them – BE like them.

*Genesis 3:15* And I will put enmity between you (Satan) and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed (women don’t have seed but this refers to a virgin birth); He (Jesus) shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

*Isaiah 7:14*  
14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

*Micah 5:2* “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”

*Isaiah 53:1–12*  
3 He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him
and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care.
4 Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins!
5 But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.
6 All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all.

Acts 4:13  When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.

Acts 5:34–39
34 But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while.
35 Then he addressed them: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.
36 Some time ago Theudas appeared, claiming to be somebody, and about four hundred men rallied to him. He was killed, all his followers were dispersed, and it all came to nothing.
37 After him, Judas the Galilean appeared in the days of the census and led a band of people in revolt. He too was killed, and all his followers were scattered.
38 Therefore, in the present case I advise you: Leave these men alone! Let them go! For if their purpose or activity is of human origin, it will fail.
39 But if it is from God, you will not be able to stop these men; you will only find yourselves fighting against God.”

Africa

9 million in 1900 to 541 million today,

Sudan: Despite the terrible persecution of Christians by Muslims, one church growth expert for Frontline Fellowship writes:

Yet [despite persecution] the Church has increased tenfold over the last 40 years. Today the steadfast and resilient Christian Church in South Sudan is one of the fastest growing in the world.

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Nepal: World’s only Hindu kingdom. First church in 1959 and had only 29 members. Today more than 500,000 Christians in Nepal.

Mongolia: 1989 only 4 Christians; Today Over 20,000 Christians
Cambodia: Late 70’s only 2,000 Christians. Today Over 150,000 Christians.


Vietnam - Among the one million Hmong there are now an estimated 400,000 Christians.

Calvary Temple of Heyderabad, India: “The Church is founded on 5 June 2005 Hyderabad with 25 people. and 155,000 in 2016.”

Mark 4:26 He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground.

27 Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how.

Mark 4:28 All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head.
Charles Spurgeon - I sometimes think I might have been in darkness and despair now, had it not been for the goodness of God in sending a snowstorm one Sunday morning, when I was going to a place of worship.

When I could go no further, I turned down a court and came to a little Primitive Methodist Chapel.

In that chapel there might be a dozen or fifteen people.

The minister did not come that morning: snowed in, I suppose.

A poor man, a shoemaker, a tailor, or something of that sort, went up into the pulpit to preach.

He was obliged to stick to his text, for the simple reason that he had nothing else to say. The text was,

Isaiah 45:22 “Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.

He did not even pronounce the words rightly, but that did not matter.

There was, I thought, a glimpse of hope for me in the text.

He began thus:

‘My dear friends, this is a very simple text indeed. It says, “Look.”’
Matthew 16:13–20
13 When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”
14 They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”
15 “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”
16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
17 Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

Romans 12
4 For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,
5 so it is with Christ’s body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other.
6 In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to
prophecy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.
7 If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.
8 If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

Mark 4:30—Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? 31 It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground.

The point wasn’t the size of the mustard seed. The point was this small mustard seed grew into something huge.

32 Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”
Matthew 13:33  

He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.”