



A Seed Planted in the Ground

One day Jesus gathered his disciples and close followers around him. He had something important to tell them. It was not going to be an easy conversation, but Jesus needed to share with them. Jesus knew his time with his friends here on earth was coming to an end. Jesus knew there were people who did not like what he was teaching. They did not like that so many people were following Jesus. Jesus knew that soldiers would probably one day come to arrest him.

Jesus' friends wanted Jesus to leave Jerusalem and get away from the soldiers. But Jesus knew that he could not run away. That was not part of God's plan.

Jesus tried to explain to his friends. He tried to explain to them using a kernel of wheat as an example. When the farmers planted their wheat fields, they used tiny grains of wheat buried in the ground. Eventually, the wheat buried in the warm earth would begin to send out roots and the plant would start to grow up from the earth. Soon the entire field would grow and grow each day thanks to the right amount of sun and rain. The tiny kernels of grain that had been planted had died as the new growth came from it. A tiny kernel made a whole lot of good wheat.

Suddenly, the disciples and friends of Jesus began to understand. There was the possibility that Jesus might die. It would be very sad for those who loved Jesus. It would be sad for Jesus. But God had a plan when he sent Jesus to earth. Jesus told them that if God could make something wonderful come from one little kernel of wheat, then certainly God could make something wonderful come as a result of Jesus' death.

Many of the disciples wished they could run away from Jerusalem. But Jesus knew he could not go. He needed his friends to stay with him and help him to be strong. And they did.

Jesus told the disciples, "The time has come for the son of Man to be glorified." He was telling them that everything God had planned for his life had happened, the time was just right, and soon events would happen that would glorify God.

The single seed dies in the ground to produce something wonderful. A life following Jesus is like a seed...we sometimes have to change the way we are, to crack open in order for the beauty of following Jesus shows up in us as we share the good news of Jesus.