

The model for a high impact church:

- People are regularly coming to Christ.
- Believers are maturing, growing, and ministering to others.
- The church is meeting deep needs in the community.

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Matthew 4:19

Context

*³¹ Then His mother and His brothers *arrived, and standing outside they sent word to Him and called Him. ³² A crowd was sitting around Him, and they *said to Him, "Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are outside looking for You." ³³ Answering them, He *said, "Who are My mother and My brothers?" ³⁴ Looking about at those who were sitting around Him, He *said, "Behold My mother and My brothers! ³⁵ For whoever does the will of God, he is My brother and sister and mother."*

Mark 3:31-35

Family relationship is based on those who do the will of God.

Five elements in the parable of the sower

Matthew 13, Mark 4, Luke 8

1. **Sower** (teacher) = Son of Man – Moral and spiritual authority, and power given by the Holy Spirit.

2. **Seed** (message) = The Word → (Mat. 4:4, Heb. 4:12) Truth → (Jn. 17:17) Gospel (Rom. 1:16)

3. **Soil** (hearers) = Human heart's responses to truth

1 st soil,	2 nd soil,	3 rd soil,	4 th soil
Hard	Shallow	Crowded	Good

4. **Growth** (response) =

1 st soil,	2 nd soil,	3 rd soil,	4 th soil
None	Immediate	Significant	Supportive = 30, 60, 100

5. **Fruit** (desired outcome) =

1 st soil,	2 nd soil,	3 rd soil,	4 th soil
None	None	None	Much fruit

Two major ways from Scripture that we can measure fruit:

1. Christ-like character

Galatians 5:22-23

2. Kingdom impact

- Great _____
- Great _____
- Great _____

Ten observations:

1. Family relationship with Jesus is doing God's will.
2. God's will is that we follow Jesus.
3. The sower of God's Word is the Son of Man.
4. The seed is God's Word.
5. The soils are the conditions of the heart responses to the truth.
6. Effective sowing, teaching, and preaching, are essential, but we must cultivate and prepare the soil for it to have an impact.
7. Growth and fruit are not synonymous.
8. Fruitfulness, mature disciples who do God's will, is the goal of preaching and teaching.
9. God has given us the raw material of His Word, the Holy Spirit, and one another to actually produce fruitfulness.
10. Only God can make the seed grow.

Application / Discussion Questions:

1. What impacted you the most from the ten observations Chip mentioned? Why?
2. It is important to understand that the power is in the message, not the messenger. How does this challenge and/or encourage you?
3. Jesus didn't do ministry to gain the Father's favor, but He did it from the Father's favor. Why is this concept so crucial to distinguish?
4. Take some time to evaluate your life and/or ministry. Are you measuring impact by your own standards or by great commission, great compassion, and great goodness? What changes is God calling you to make today?