



Touching Lives  
with James Merritt



**SERMON SINGLES**

# Touching Lives with Dr. James Merritt

## Sowing Seed

Luke 8:4-15

### INTRODUCTION

Today we are going to look at one of the parables Jesus tells to His followers that is recorded in the gospel of Luke. There are three specific elements to this parable: the sower, the seed, and the soil. The sower represents the follower of Jesus. The seed represents the message of the gospel. And the soil represents the heart of the non-believer. What we will learn from this parable is simple: it is our responsibility to sow the seed, and the rest is up to God. We can't change other people's hearts, just like the sower can't change the soil he's planting in. But God is more than capable of changing someone's heart and opening their mind to receive the gospel. So with that in mind, let's dive in.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. We Are Responsible To Sow The Seed

Even though the seed is the Word of God, the seed cannot plant itself. It needs a sower. All the seed in the world is useless if the sower does not go out and sow it. In other words, the farmer can't do his job sitting in the house. He has to get out to the field. The fisherman can't do his job on land. He has to get out into the water. We are not to let God's Word, specifically the gospel, sit on a shelf and rot. We are not to keep it to ourselves - that is go to church and hear it and leave it at church and do nothing about it. We have seed bought and paid for. All we have to do is sow it.

#### 2. They Are Responsible To Welcome The Word

It doesn't matter whether I think you are saved or not or whether you think I am saved or not. What matters is that both of us should be able to look in the mirror and know that we are saved, not just by something we said or something we signed, but by the fruit that we bear.

We are not saved by works, religious activity, or living a moral life, but if we are saved, every one of those things will follow. Good works don't produce salvation, but good works do prove salvation. There are people that we will lead to Jesus that will mean it. They will bear fruit. Their lives will be changed. You don't have to ask them. They will show you. But remember, you can't make them bear fruit. You can't make them accept the gospel. It is their responsibility to welcome the Word of God so they can live a life devoted to Him.

### NOTES

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Sowing Seed

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3. God Is Responsible To Handle The Harvest

Remember, all a farmer can do is sow the seed. Once he does that, the harvest is in God's hands. Our job is to go and sow and leave the rest to God. I am going to share with you two sentences that I hope will change your attitude towards taking this seed in your hand and sowing it: The key to reaching people without Jesus is not the presentation of the message; it is the penetration of the heart. The presentation is our part; the penetration is God's part.

Let me tell you why all of us can be successful in doing what God has commanded and called every one of us to do. Success is simply sowing the seed. Every time you drop seed, you have been successful. If you are sharing what you know and if you are living what you share, that is all that God asks. You can leave the rest up to Him.

NOTES

Horizontal lines for taking notes.

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## **Sowing Seed**

*Luke 8:4-15*

### **QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

1. When was the last time you “sowed seed” and shared the gospel with someone?
2. Do you find it easy or difficult to leave it up to God to handle the harvest? Explain your answer.
3. Who is someone God is placing on your heart right now that you can share the gospel with soon?

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