

Dirt, Apple Seeds and New Life

Part 2 of the *Raised to Life* series

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Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival.

They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

John 12:20-26 NIV

Lessons from the life cycle of a seed...

- It all begins with a dead seed. (1 Cor 1:26-30; Rom. 4:5)
- Before there can be new life, the seed has to be buried and end its life as a seed.

Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.

Matthew 10:39

We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Romans 6:4

- New life begins to form that breaks free from the shell and reaches for the sun. (Rom 6:5-11)
- A flourishing plant that produces fruit that eventually produces more new life.

Next Steps

Take some time to answer the following questions with your spouse, children, or small group...

- Spring is in the air. Do you have a green thumb? Explain.
- What are the areas that God asking you to "lose your life" in but you struggle to let go of?
- What are the areas that he wants to work in but you're having a hard time surrendering to His way?
- What keeps you hanging on or refusing to surrender? Read Matthew 10:39 & Romans 6:5-11 and discuss how this truth changes things.
- Where have you seen God work through your life to produce more new life?