



CEO Devotional – April 6, 2015
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Sowing an Orchard

I am not much of a stock investor. Stock market investors are happy with yields of 5% or 10%. I tend to prefer finding small obscure companies that we can buy and grow. For us, we measure growth by yields of 3x, 5x, and 10x. Sometimes we buy companies and make a hundredfold return. Sometimes we buy companies and lose our initial investment... and then some.

A friend of mine likes to ask the question, "How many seeds are in an apple?"

Neither my friend nor I have ever counted the seeds in an apple. The more interesting question we like to ask, as a follow up is, "How many apples are in a seed?"

Jesus shared the following parable:

"Listen! Behold, a sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seed fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured it. ⁵ Other seed fell on rocky ground, where it did not have much soil, and immediately it sprang up, since it had no depth of soil. ⁶ And when the sun rose, it was scorched, and since it had no root, it withered away. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain. ⁸ And other seeds fell into good soil and produced grain, growing up and increasing and yielding thirtyfold and sixtyfold and a hundredfold." (Mark 4:3-8)

The parable teaches us that investing in the life of one person – planting the seed (evangelism) and nurturing its growth (discipleship) – does not always produce fruit, but when it does, the fruit will produce huge returns for years to come.

As I look back at my own spiritual journey, I see those that have nurtured me in my faith. They taught me how to have an intimate relationship with Jesus through the scriptures and prayer. I realize that I am part of a crop that is yielding thirtyfold, sixtyfold or even a hundredfold.

God allows us to be part of future generations – to create a legacy. As my friends come to faith in Jesus and walk with Jesus through life, they in turn pass this on to their family and friends, who then lead changed lives and become yet another seed planted in the orchard. The kingdom of God expands exponentially.

A seed in the right soil doesn't produce just one apple; it produces an entire orchard.