

Seeds

For a huge number of years I have had the great privilege of speaking at the Adventure Unlimited Camp at Abernethy.

Each year the camp takes a theme and I try to structure the talks round the theme -

- So this year's theme was Rock and Roll, so I spoke about Rocks, and Peter the Rock
- One year it was about spies and I talked about being God's secret agents
- One year it was space and I talked about being sent on a mission by God

One of the best years was the year we talked about farms, and in particular when I spoke about seeds.

I became fascinated with them,

The way that they travel - like dandelions with parachutes
Or berries which literally make use of the intestinal tract of birds
Or Sea Beans which travel the width of the ocean to get planted thousands of miles away

The seed has a determination to spread, to find a new place to grow.

One of the ways that seeds spread is they make us love them
Sometimes by wrapping themselves in fruit like strawberry or raspberry or banana,
One of the biggest miracles is how the walnut or the hazelnut ever achieved this, but they did

That is how seed got us to spread them

Or the love affair we have with the coffee seed,
Or the cacao seed

Seeds will do just about anything to get us to love them.

It is this relentless powerhouse of determination.

And then when it hits the soil, it has this way of gathering to it the rain and the soil and the sun, and growing,

So that the smallest seeds like this Sequoia seed become the largest plant.

They are remarkable things seeds,

Jesus had a passion for seeds

He was particularly interested in the relationship that seed has with the soil.

When you have that reaction - seed and soil, then you have life.

This relentless growth - Jesus loved to talk about that.
Where it grew, the size it grew, just the very miracle of growing.

You are the place where the soil meets the seed.
He calls that the Kingdom of heaven

The seed is like message that God is near
And we are like the soil receiving,
And together
The seed and the soil make life.

And that seed, that gospel seed,
Has the same determination to find human attention
To grow,
It has ingenuity and all sorts of different ways
And it is determined that it is going to grow

You are called to be a place where seed and soil make life.

Just prepare yourself for that miracle.

And ask yourself, do you have a dignified enough view of your being
That you can say
I am in the place where the seed makes the soil.

That is the great discovery of the gospel, the surprise that we can, all of us be the place
where the seed meets the soil and we make life.

Where is the seed coming into you now?

Are you blocking the seed
Or suffocating the seed
Or choking the seed with distraction

What we celebrate today, with Beth, is her discovery that where the seed meets the soil
you get life.

That seed loves to find life,

And it is seeking out you,

Are you prepared to believe in it,

Let it

Do you notice it,

Believe it

Because when that seed finds its roots in you

That is the where the whole adventure begins

AMEN