

The Cross and Fruitfulness

Introduction:

“We know how Jesus became fruitful – not by bearing His cross – but by dying on it.”

There is no gain but by a loss;
 You cannot save but by a cross.
 The grain of wheat, to multiply,
 Must fall into the ground and die.
 Wherever you ripe fields behold,
 Waving to God their sheaves of gold,
 Be sure some grain of wheat has died,
 Some soul has there been crucified;
 Someone has wrestled, wept, and prayed,
 And fought hell's legions undismayed!

Biblical Characters Who Tried to Survive:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Abraham | 5. The rich, young ruler |
| 2. Lot | 6. The man who buried his talent |
| 3. The 10 Spies | 7. Peter, as he denied Jesus |
| 4. Solomon | 8. Ananias and Sapphira |

The Result?

1. They paid an awful price to survive.

Biblical Characters Who Didn't Try to Survive:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Abraham & Isaac | 7. Daniel |
| 2. Job | 8. The three Hebrew children |
| 3. Joshua | 9. John the Baptist |
| 4. Caleb | 10. Widow with two pennies |
| 5. David | 11. Paul |
| 6. Elijah | |

Three Seeds that must be put into the ground to die:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Success | (Reputation) | 1 Corinthians 1 & 2 |
| 2. Satisfaction | (Lukewarm) | Revelation 3:15-17 |
| 3. Selfishness | (Giving up my rights) | Philippians 2:5-9 |

** The issue of survival will arise before every important commitment to God.*

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1. _____
2. _____
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7. _____, as he denied Jesus
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1. Abraham & _____
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Three Seeds that must be put into the ground to die:

1. _____ (Reputation) 1 Corinthians 1 & 2
2. _____ (Lukewarm) Revelation 3:15-17
3. _____ (Giving up my rights) Philippians 2:5-9

** The issue of survival will arise before every important commitment to God.*