

# The Terre Haute SPEAKER

*"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Peter 4:11).*

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## Is the Seed in the Barn?

by John Isaac Edwards

This study takes us back to the restoration period of Old Testament history, when the Lord asked the children out of captivity, "Is the seed yet in the barn? ..." (Hag. 2:19). The situation was that the Lord's people had forsaken the Lord's house. Haggai came on the scene asking, "Is it time for you, O ye, to dwell in your cieled houses, and this house lie waste?" (Hag. 1:4). Haggai 2:19 marks a turning point as Haggai spake the Lord's message to the Lord's people "...and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God" (Hag. 1:13-14). The Lord asked His people, "Is the seed yet in the barn? yea, as yet the vine, and the fig tree, and the pomegranate, and the olive tree, hath not brought forth: from this day will I bless you" (Hag. 2:19). We make spiritual application of this question.

**1) The Seed Is the Word.** As you come to the

New Testament, the Lord set forth His word as seed and the hearts of men and women are represented as soil, in the Parable of the Sower (Lk. 8:5-15). Every farmer knows that if the seed is left in the barn, there will not be a crop. It is our job, as Christians, to get the seed out of the barn and put it in the soil.

**2) Some Who Got the Seed Out of the Barn.** Let me call to our attention some who did not leave the seed in the barn, but got the seed out of the barn and put it in the soil:

**Anna got the seed out of the barn.** Luke 2:36-38 records the story of Anna. Verse 38 says she "... spake of him [that's Jesus] to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Do you know what she was doing? Getting the seed out of the barn! I'd like to think there are folks in our community who are looking for redemption, and we know

where it is — in Christ (Eph. 1:7). Let's speak of the Redeemer as Anna.

**Andrew got the seed out of the barn.** "He first findeth his own brother Simon...And he brought him to Jesus...." (John 1:40-42). That statement would not be in our Bible, had Andrew left the seed in the barn! This shows when and where to begin getting the seed out of the barn: *first*, before everything else, and within our own family as he *findeth his own brother*. Andrew's brother, Peter, became the Lord's disciple, an apostle, preached the first recorded gospel sermon, was sent to Cornelius, wrote two letters that bear his name, and was an elder in the church. Do you know where it all started? With Andrew, his brother, getting the seed out of the barn!

**Philip got the seed out of the barn.** John 1 continues, "Philip findeth Nathanael, and...Jesus saw

Nathanael coming to him..." (Jn. 1:45-47). Do you know why the Lord saw Nathanael coming to Him? Because Philip did not leave the seed in the barn!

**The woman of Samaria got the seed out of the barn.** Upon finding the Messiah, the Samaritan woman, "...went her way into the city, and saith to the men, Come..." (Jn. 4:28-29). This woman was getting the seed out of the barn! Getting the seed out of the barn is as easy as saying, "Come." This points out the power of an invitation as she said come and they came (Jn. 4:30). "...many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman..." (Jn. 4:39). That would not have been the case, had she just left the seed in the barn!

**Peter got the seed out of the barn.** Acts 2 finds Peter, on the day of Pentecost, saying to the

Jerusalem dwellers, "Ye men of Israel, hear these words..." (Acts 2:22). Do you know what he was doing? Getting the seed out of the barn and putting it in the soil! As a result, folks were moved to ask, "...Men and brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Verse 41 reports, "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." That would never have happened, had the seed been left in the barn!

**Jerusalem church members got the seed out of the barn.** Members of the church at Jerusalem "...went every where preaching the word" (Acts 8:4). Acts 11:19-21 tells the rest of the story: "...a great number believed, and turned unto the Lord." This is how the church at Antioch had its beginning! Folks were converted and churches were established

when brethren in the first century got the seed out of the barn! The same can happen today.

**Philip got the seed out of the barn.** The evangelist "...went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5). As a result, "...they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). Simon also believed and was baptized (Acts 8:13). Philip again got the seed out of the barn when he met up with the Ethiopian "...and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35). Because Philip got the seed out of the barn we read where the man confessed his faith in the Son of God, stopped the chariot, was baptized and went on his way rejoicing (Acts 8:36-39).

Let's get the seed out of the barn and put it in the soil so God can give the increase (1 Cor. 3:7).

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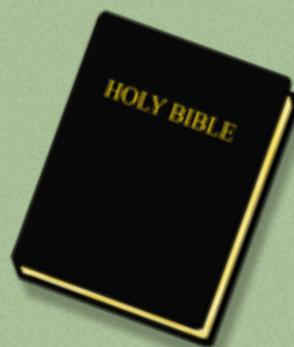
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**Assembling Times:**

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**Come be with us!**



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