

## Ten Multiplication Scriptures to Ponder

**Genesis 1:28** (NRSV): "God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion...'"

- God created human beings for relationship and wanted them to cover the earth. What dream was on God's heart from the beginning?
- How has our Creator built in an organic strategy for multiplying human beings in the likeness of God in both the physical and the spiritual realms?
- Why would the devil come right away to try to stop this plan from advancing by getting people to multiply sin and brokenness instead of the peace and purity of God?

**Genesis 17:2** (NIV): "I will confirm my covenant between me and you and will greatly increase your numbers."

- When God Almighty is choosing a family and nation to redeem, why does God want to grow it so large?
- How is the blessing on Abraham seen in the evidence of his herds, wealth, and descendants multiplying exponentially?

**Exodus 1:12-13** (NIV): "But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly."

- How is it that the people of God, even in slavery and facing the onslaught of evil from other humans, could grow strong and overcome?
- When God has a plan for his people in salvation history, who can ultimately overthrow it?

**Matthew 13:23** (NIV): "But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."

- What is the good news here described by Jesus as the "message of the kingdom"? (See also verses 11 and 19.)
- When heaven invades earth with its blessings and transformation, how can it be described as producing a minimum of a thirty-fold increase over what was sown in us?

**Matthew 13:33** (NIV): "He told them still another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough.'"

- Of the 82 times Jesus teaches about the kingdom of heaven in Scripture, what does it mean here, where heaven impacts the many facets of human life until they reveal the will of the King of heaven? (Examples: government, business, family, education, churches, media/arts, sports/entertainment)

- Why is the kingdom of heaven able to multiply its influence where tradition and religion cannot?

**Matthew 25:20** (NIV): "The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master', he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.'"

- In this parable of kingdom life, what is the proportional return on the investment that Jesus commends as faithful?
- Why would Jesus describe the servant who did not double what was entrusted to him as wicked, lazy, and worthless? (v. 26, 30)

**Matthew 9:37-38** (NIV): "Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.'"

- When the crowds of needy people were multiplying, what strategy did Jesus use to multiply the presence of God in a saving way to meet the need?
- Jesus sends 12 to do and teach the same message and methods of the kingdom of heaven as he was (Matthew 9:35; 10:1, 7-8). What principles of leadership selection and reproduction do we see here?

**Acts 2:47** (NIV): "And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

- What would you rather have, \$1,000 each day for a month, or a penny doubled and then doubled again every day for a month? (Hint: the penny doubles to over \$10 million by day 31.)
- Why was the kingdom of God expanding so steadily and rapidly so the net effect was the 120 (Acts 1) becoming 3,120 (Acts 2) and then 5,000 men alone (Acts 4) and then thousands more as "the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly" (Acts 6:7)?
- How does Acts 8 with Phillip in Samaria show that this rapid increase of disciples is normal for kingdom growth to multiply? (Acts 8:6, 12)

**2 Timothy 2:2** (NIV): "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others."

- Paul speaks of four generations of equipping leaders branching out here. How would it impact the life of your church if every apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, or teacher would multiply leaders in this manner?
- In Acts 19:10, how does the apostle Paul use this strategy to multiply leaders and new churches to fill the province of Asia? ("This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.")

**Revelation 7:9** (NIV): "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were wearing white robes..."

- Since this great multitude comes out of the generations who have lived on the earth, how can you advance the kingdom of God into the total harvest in your region, including crossing cultures and language groups to bring Jesus to them?
- Can you see here how God has delighted in the dream of his heart and seen the fulfillment of millions upon millions of human beings becoming members of his forever family through receiving the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world?

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