



Grace Fellowship of Morehead, KY

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FARMERS GOTTA FARM

Message preached on Sunday Morning, October 20, 2024

If you want to know how things ought to be...go to Genesis.
Even greater...go to the garden! How God created things to be!

Genesis 1:26-29

- 26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.
- 27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.
- 28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.
- 29 And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.

Genesis 2:15 – “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Many people can't wait until they can sit back and do NOTHING...and live their lives doing NOTHING... they feel that the goal in life is to do NOTHING.

TRUTH: God did NOT make man to do NOTHING...but to actually work. NOT to toil, but to work.

- 1.) God made man in HIS own image.
- 2.) He gave them things that they needed to do what He created them to do (His image, dominion, blessing, etc.)
- 3.) vs. 29 – Seed!

QUESTION: Why would He give us seed?

ANSWER: Because it was our job to tend and keep the garden!
He created us to INCREASE!

LISTEN: From the beginning...God created us to be SEED minded THUS HARVEST minded!

BELOVED: You can't have one without the other.

Genesis 8:22 – “While the earth remaineth, **seedtime and harvest**, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night **shall not cease.**”

God created man to sow and reap...He said, it will be that way until the earth is no more.

THEN: He writes a book (through lots of men) that uses farming again and again.

Jesus uses seed time and harvest time and again to share the Truth of the Word. To teach the Kingdom of God.

WHY? Because the earth has not ceased. Because that is how we've been created to live!

THEREFORE: It is essential for us to understand some key aspects to farming...sowing and reaping!

The Tithe: Access

NOW: If I were to ask you what is the first step in the process of seedtime and harvest...most of you would look at me like I had two heads and say, "Duh, sow seed."

HOWEVER: That would be careless...and wasteful! Yup!

Malachi 3:10 – "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I **will not open you the windows of heaven**, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

NOW: The word "**window**" is mainly used to describe a window, but also presents an entry and exit point. A gate that is opened to stop or allow access.

THEREFORE: Our tithe opens gates...windows..access.

One of the best descriptions of the tithe that I have found was from a minister who grew up in Alabama on a farm. He described the TITHE as the process of sharecropping!

"Sharecropping" – Rents land for sowing and reaping...gives them access to part of their land for part of the harvest on the land.

APPARENTLY: This man's family owned a lot of farm land...and there were people who wanted to farm, but didn't have farmland...so they would rent a portion of this families land so they could sow and reap.

This man said that there were times these people would not pay their rent and would try to plant on their property and his dad would come out and block their entrance from the land.

ALSO an important part of sharecropping was that when you brought in your harvest, you shared a portion of the harvest with the land owner.

No rent...no sharing...no land...no access. No open door! You don't get the harvest.

Let's go back to the garden in Genesis.

God has given man everything they need to succeed...including seed.

He has given them the job of tending and keeping the garden.

Then He gives them this warning. This key!

Genesis 2:16,17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

The tree in the garden represents the tithe.

It was something that was HOLY unto the Lord (Leviticus 27)...not for man!

As long as they left the tree...and did NOT eat of it...they could ENJOY the harvest and more seed time.

HOWEVER: The second they touched what was the Lords...they LOST ACCESS TO THE GARDEN!

Wow!

BELOVED: Before you ever sow the tiniest seed...you MUST bring your tithe to open up access...
Malachi 3:11 – “And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.”

REAL QUICK: Many of you, I’m sure, ask, “Why do you talk so much about the tithe?”

FIRST: See above! I want you blessed.

SECOND: That question reveals your heart. God is after willing givers, cheerful givers, etc.

People who tithe consistently enjoy hearing messages on the tithe. It encourages them...it gives them a boost to keep doing it. They love hearing about the blessings and don’t worry themselves about the curse.

It is the people who DON’T TITHE that don’t enjoy the tithe talk. They don’t want to do it. No, pastor...I can’t afford to do it. No it is all in the want to...trust me. Been there, done that! Jesus makes the statement, “It isn’t the healed who need the doctor, but the sick...”

NOTE: Healed and strong people don’t mind going to the doctor for a checkup...the doctor says, “Everything looks good.” They walk out happy..confirming they are healthy.

HOWEVER: A sick person really needs to hear what the doctor has to say so they can correct those things that are off. (Remember, God’s words is medicine)

PERHAPS: Talk about me not wanting to go to the doctor, because I knew what he was going to say and I didn’t want to go get anything checked out.

BELOVED: God doesn’t need your money and He is NOT after your money! He is after YOU!

Jesus said, Matthew 6:21 – “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

When you can’t bring your tithe...it simply tells where your heart is (I didn’t write it).

When you can’t sow...it simply tells where your heart is.

SOOOO...If you are not tithing...and you want the blessings that come from HIS FIELD...you are actually trying to steal it...hmmm.

You Gotta Sow

Once you have access to the land...you most sow that seed.

I know it isn’t an exciting concept, but you gotta go in and work the field. Your sowing doesn’t start until 10.1% is given.

NOW: Tithing is a definite location...your storehouse...you bring it to your storehouse.

HOWEVER: Sowing can be scattered around...any place there is good ground.

Proverbs 11:24 – “There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.”

The only key is that you sow...not to manipulate anything, but to bless.

1 Corinthians 3:7 tells us that GOD is the one who brings the harvest (increase), so giving to grease the wheels is not sowing.

QUICK THOUGH: If I am sowing because I HAVE TO...I will not take the care to put the seed in the correct spot...but if I am the FARMER who knows this seed is precious...I will honor every seed sown with love.

Galatians 6:7 – “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.”

- 1.) Good seed MUST be sown into good soil (see vs. 6) for it to bring forth harvest...not on the wayside, etc.
- 2.) Bad seed (weeds) can grow anywhere.
Bad seeds are selfishness, bitterness, anger, strife, gossip, etc.

- 3.) Your seed determines what you get...so what do you want?
 4.) Your seed determines HOW MUCH you get...so how much do you want?
2 Corinthians 9:6 – “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”

ALSO NOTICE: Galatians 6:8 – If you sow to the flesh...you will reap corruption. So to the spirit...eternal life.

IN OTHER WORDS: Where is your treasure? If it is in HIS FIELD...you will reap perpetual life! If it is in yourself? Not so much!

You Gotta Water It

Here is the kicker...if all you do is throw some good seed into good ground...you will end up with NOTHING...

You can sow as much seed as you want, but if you don't water it...it won't grow.

ILLUSTRATION: The science project of seed. Water is the most important thing for the seed to grow!

This may be something that you've never thought of...but it is our job to sow and to water!

1 Corinthians 3:6 – “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

Paul describes what Apollos (someone who followed him to Corinth) did...he watered.

THEREFORE: We know that watering has something to do with what a preacher would do...hmmm.

Ephesians 5:26 – “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,”

So, water represents the Word...okay!

We know the Word of God comes at us in several ways:

- * The Bible
- * The Spirit
- * The man of God who is directed by the Bible and the Spirit (see Apollos).

OKAY, so keep speaking the Word over my seed? Yes...and yet there is more!

Apollos watered the people at Corinth.

Leviticus 26:4 – “Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit.”

RAIN CAME...WHY?

Leviticus 26:3 – “If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them;

Deuteronomy 11:14 – “That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil.”

RAIN CAME...WHY?

Deuteronomy 11:13 – “And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto my commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul,”

Deuteronomy 11:17 – “And then the LORD'S wrath be kindled against you, and he shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you.”

NO RAIN...WHY?

Deuteronomy 11:16 – “Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;”

Deuteronomy 28:12 – “The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.”

RAIN CAME...WHY?

Deuteronomy 28:1,2

- 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
- 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

Deuteronomy 28:24 – “The LORD shall make the rain of thy land powder and dust: from heaven shall it come down upon thee, until thou be destroyed.”

NO RAIN...WHY?

Deuteronomy 28:15 – “But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:”

1 Kings 8:35 – “When heaven is shut up, and there is no rain, because they have sinned against thee; if they pray toward this place, and confess thy name, and turn from their sin, when thou afflictest them:”

NO RAIN because of SIN and DISOBEDIENCE!

1 Kings 8:36 – “Then hear thou in heaven, and forgive the sin of thy servants, and of thy people Israel, that thou teach them the good way wherein they should walk, and give rain upon thy land, which thou hast given to thy people for an inheritance.”

RAIN CAME because of OBEDIENCE.

BELOVED: Are you seeing this?

Once you've sown seed...every subsequent act of obedience is watering the seed.

- * When your man of God teaches on something...your response to that waters your seed.
- * When you hear that voice direct you...your response waters the seed.
- * When you read what the Word says...what you do at that point determines whether your seed grows or not!

Psalms 1:2,3

- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

“**Delight**” is about being happy to do something. To be caught up in something.

When your delight is in the Word...His directions?

You will be a well watered seed...growing quickly...producing fruit...and prospering!

THINK ABOUT ABRAHAM...Promise came in Genesis 12...He was a tither (Genesis 14)...he walked with God and learned a lot...but it was his **ONE ACT** of obedience in Genesis 22 that activated the blessing (Genesis 22:15-18).

BILL JOHNSON: The trees along the Sacramento River were never informed that there was a drought.

Neither will you when you operate correctly in seedtime and harvest.

- 1.) Bring your tithe.
- 2.) Sow your seed.
- 3.) Obey! Whatever he tells you to do...obey.

John 2:5 – “His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.”