

Harvest – Staying Connected to the Source

3 weeks ago we started a new series called Harvest.

Story about Harvis the Exterminator

God spoke through that encounter that we would soon enter into a season of Harvest.

***Definition of Harvest is :

the consequence of an effort or activity;
reap: gather, as of natural products;
the gathering of a ripened crop

Anyone that has planted knows through only one season that a harvest gathered before it is ready is of little value and a harvest gathered after it is ready is of little value.

Starting a new series this week talking about Harvest.

***First, though, I want to lay some ground work about harvest that will be used throughout this series in the form of 4 principles of Harvest.

***1. The Law of sowing and reaping is universal.

Over-arching guide of this series is the principle of sowing and reaping.

Gen 8:22

“While the earth remains,
Seedtime and harvest,
And cold and heat,
And summer and winter,
And day and night
Shall not cease.”

***2. What you sow determines what you reap.

Galatians 6:7 says, “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”

What you sow determines the kind of crop you reap.

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In farming, if you want to reap a harvest of corn, you don't sow wheat seed, and if you want to reap a harvest of wheat, you don't sow cabbage seed.

***3. There is a time lapse between sowing and reaping

Paul says in v7 to not be deceived. Why? Because if you don't understand the fact that time must pass between these 2, you WILL be deceived into thinking that this sowing your doing will not have a reaping consequence.

***4. The quality of your harvest is determined primarily by what YOU do during the time lapse.

And what you do will be determined by what you remain connected to.

Today we're going to talk about what to do when we feel as though we're becoming disconnected.

All of us will go through or have gone through times when it seems like God has left us, nobody cares, nobody gets it, etc.

Those seasons of winter when everything seems barren, nothing is blooming, and it's just miserable.

Today if you're here for the first time and you're still figuring out this whole Christian thing, you're going to get a dose of reality that you may not have heard before.

In 2 Chronicles 20 King Jehoshaphat is having a bad day.

Establish the context.

Show the map.

Israel and Judah after Solomon. The split is a harvest of the seed that Solomon sowed of disobedience. Rehoboam refuses to lighten the load of the people.

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3 things Jehoshaphat did to stay connected to God in a time of trouble

1. King Jehoshaphat sought the Lord.

Notice what he didn't do.

He didn't seek counsel with the other kings in the area. Call Fred.

He didn't go and find out what David did or Solomon did in this situation or one like it. What worked for David might not work for you!

He didn't consult a medium, or call the psychic hot line.

He sought the Lord

One day you will find yourself in a place of authority and all hell will break loose. What will you do?

Husbands, you want your wife to begin to include you in on problems in the family. Then stop burying your head in the sand and pretending that your wife is the one who deals with this or that. She wasn't designed to carry that burden and you were. Lead.

2. King Jehoshaphat fasted.

They denied their appetite for the things of the earth to increase their appetite for the things of God.

Fasting turns off your senses to enable you to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit.

Fasting also cuts off the access the enemy has to you through your appetites.

For those of you dietary restrictions because of health reasons, you can still fast. This has way more to do with just not eating.

When you fast, remove the TV. In fact, remove every influence in your life that feeds your flesh, whether it's a kind of music, movie, or any other medium.

Fasting is about separation and dedication. That means it's going to take some effort to change the way you live your life for a while.

3. King Jehoshaphat gathered together with his people.

Hebrews 10:24,25 says,

24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds,

25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

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This Greek word paroxusmos is related to our English paroxysm which describes a sudden attack or violent expression of something. Although that is not exactly what the writer is saying for his readers to do, it does convey the sense that we are to be serious about spurring one another. Perhaps you have had this experience -- You were driving home late at night with someone else at the wheel and you noticed them begin to nod off. How did you stimulate them? A whisper? Hardly. Instead you would rather vigorously tried to excite them and arouse them from their stupor to prevent "the day" of your car crash from drawing near! In the same way, we believers are to consider seriously out to spur each other onward and upward and all the more as the day of His return draws nearer.

This is more than ensure we have good attendance and offerings every Sunday.

This speaks to the heart of why we gather together on a regular basis and why it is good for you to be hear whenever you can. Notice I did NOT say when ever you feel like it.

How many times has this scenario played itself out. Things are going good, then BAM. Then the enemy comes in an lies and says nobody cares.

Folks, during the gap between seed time and harvest, what you stay connected to will determine the outcome of your harvest.

If you let yourself get separated from the source of nutrients, your harvest will die in the field, never getting reaped.