

Harvest – Living on Less to Give More

4 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.

4 Principals of the 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.

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.

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***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 as we conclude this series, we are going to focus on propagating the harvest cycle, or keeping it going.

Many of us in here have missed a season of harvest because we just plain missed the signs of the harvest being ready. And because we missed the signs, our harvest wasn't what it could have been and because it wasn't what it could have been, we became disappointed in the whole process.

When you and I become disappointed in something, our tendency is to blame the process, or the something you've become disappointed in, or better yet, God.

And we fail to see that, through the disappointment, God is trying to say something.

Most of the time, He's trying to tell us about ourselves. And today I want to take just a moment and examine our lives in light of the principles we are talking about here.

I want to talk a little about the concept of margin with you today and then I'm going to relate it back to the harvest and we'll take a look at what God has to say about reaping.

***Margin - The amount available beyond what is needed, the extra, or the reserves.

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Books margin,
highway lanes (german bus ride),
first class flying,
Personal space,
all have extra room.

Personally Margin is the space between current performance and our limits.
Showing up early, having enough money at the end of the month, getting into an argument and being able to deal with it emotionally.

No margin, your stress level goes up.

You are designed to live with margin and not at the limits.

When margin decreases, self centeredness increases.

Relationships suffer. Relationship happens in the margin.

None of this is NEW information, is it???

Why do we allow ourselves to do this??

I think it's fear. We're afraid we're going to miss out on something good, and if I don't pursue all these good things, I'm not going to have a good life.

Are you enjoying life? NO and I don't have time to talk about it.

A lot of you in here have more money than you ever have had before, and you're more stressed out about it than ever.

***Leviticus 19:9, 10

9 'Now when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field, nor shall you gather the gleanings of your harvest.

10 'Nor shall you glean your vineyard, nor shall you gather the fallen fruit of your vineyard; you shall leave them for the needy and for the stranger. I am the LORD your God.

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***1. Your Harvest is not just for you.

You can't abide by this principle if you're living at your limit constantly.

***2. Your "left-overs" are someone else's meal.

Loose Change Challenge

Everyone doing a little has BIG results.