

Now is the Time

Hosea 10:12-11:4

11/23/03

Intro

- Thanksgiving is a godly perspective.

.....
Hosea was a prophet in the northern kingdom, was asked of God to marry a harlot as a picture of the waywardness of the people of Israel.

At one point, after Gomer, his wife and had left him and so destroyed her life that she ended up on the auction block to sell herself as a slave, Hosea bought her back as a picture of his great love for her, **and God's great love for us.**

Here, in these verses, God is calling His people to change the direction of their lives. He uses a picture of a farmer preparing the soil and then planting seed to show that they have been sowing wickedness and they won't like what they will be reaping.

These, then, are the principles of sowing and reaping.

I. We Reap What We Sow

A. Sow with a view to righteousness

- Sow in ourselves.
- And sow in the lives of others

Illus – Jordi and teaching Nicole how to throw water on Daddy.

- **There is a principle of the harvest in scripture**

Galatians 6: 7-9 – sowing to the Spirit or the flesh

B. We reap more than we sow

- In the parable of the soils, Jesus said that the seed planted will produce fruit that is 30, 60, and even 100 fold more than the seed sown.

Hosea 8:7, “For they sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.”

- **“Reap in accordance with “compassion.”**
- **The word in Hebrew is “hesed.”**
- **Grace comes back to us...**

Illus – Multnomah Bible College and the “committee”

C. We sow what we are

- If we are angry, we will sow anger
- If we are bitter, we sow in bitterness

Illus – One of the words for husband is “georgos” –farmer

- **We have within us both wickedness and righteousness – we are capable of both.**
- **We have both flesh and spirit.**
- **God is asking us to make the choice.**

Joshua 24:15, “If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today who you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in the land you are now living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

II. Break Up the Fallow Ground

A. The ground gets hard

Illus – The old man and his son who was in prison...

- It gets baked in the sun
- **Jesus spoke of the heat of the day being the affliction or persecution.**
- Hard ground can't receive.

Ezekiel 36:26, "Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh."

B. But weeds will grow there

- Thorns and thistles grow in the hardest of soils.
- **"Thorns and thistles came only as result of sin."**

Jeremiah 4:3 "Break up your fallow ground and do not sow among the thorns."

C. Let the blade dig deep

- The blade of God's Spirit needs to cut deeply in to break up the hardness that has been in our lives.

Psalm 51:17, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

- But it's very important to remember that God knows just how much is needed.

Isaiah 28:23-29 – God knows just how much we need...

III. It is Time to Seek the Lord

A. "It is time"

- Now is the time.
- **Don't let things get worse!**

Isaiah 55:1-11 – Seek the Lord while He may be found (while He's still willing to resist us)

B. "To seek the Lord"

- What does it mean to "seek the Lord"?
- 6:3 – "Press in" to the things of God.

Jeremiah 29: 13, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

C. "Until He rains righteousness"

- If there's a gap between the seeking and the blessing...
- **Stay faithful.**
- Know that God is working in our behalf.

Illus – As Pastor Ron Mehl wrote, “God works the night shift.”

➤ **God loves you as His own son**

11:1-4 – Out of Egypt I called My son.

Conclusion

Now is the time to seek the Lord. Now is the time to “press in” to the things of God and we will reap many times over.