

Nov. 1, 2023 – The Harvest

Fall/Autumn – time to harvest. Pumpkins, etc.

There is no harvest if work was not done before. Tilling, seeds, etc.

Galatians 5:22-23 tells us about 9 fruits of the Spirit: “² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control.” **These don’t happen without cultivation.**

Q – Right now, what do our lives harvest? Love? or Judgmental rejection? Joy? Or are we depressed and the downers of the gathering? Peace? Or do we stir up drama and trouble?

Some bring happiness when they arrive, others when leave.
Patience? Or do we frequently lose our patience ... temper?

Next Q - What are we doing in our lives to cultivate a harvest?

- Aware of the work that needs to happen?
- Many people don’t want to change. “This is me.”
 - o At all times, God is working on us... developing/cultivating us.
2 Cor. 5:17 – “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”
 - o Holy Spirit is preparing a better us... to make a better world/ help others.

Mark 11 - ¹² The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³ Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴ Then he said to the tree, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again.”

If Jesus came to our tree – would He find fruit?

Could our lives be a blessing to someone who is hungry?

No figs, b/c not the season.

Paul in **2 Tim. 4:2** – “Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage with great patience and teaching.”

Season? Testing. Challenge. Storm.

Even then, tell the good news / encourage... when at your best, & not.

God’s work happens at all hours, at all times . . .

Someone is going to need you... you may think you’re not ready... step up. Be ready. Be willing. Testimony even more powerful during your storm.

Psalm 1:1-3 – “Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.”

- Trees yield fruit b/c their roots draw nutrients in the soil, rain refreshes the tree, and the sun shines.
 - The Word of God feeds our soul. Testimonies feed us.
 - We need to be refreshed, often. Music is the rain to my soul. Certain places may be refreshing ... seeing God’s Glory.
 - Sun shining is God’s kindness... be aware of God’s blessings
 - **Jer. 31:3** – “I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore I have drawn you with lovingkindness.”
- And we have to choose our friends wisely...carefully.
 - Dare to be different . . . don’t walk w/just everyone.
 - Avoid the company of mockers . . .

Gal. 6:7 - We reap what we sow. What are you Sowing? Harvesting?

Gal. 5:25 – “If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.”

- **Keep in step** – work where H.S. is showing you to work. H. Spirit is always relaying messages to us . . . building us up . . . maturing us . . . cultivating us to produce fruit... a Harvest!

It’s never too late for us to produce fruit:

Psalm 92 - ¹¹ My eyes have seen the downfall of my enemies; my ears have heard the defeat of my wicked opponents. ¹² But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. ¹³ For they are transplanted to the Lord’s own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴ Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. ¹⁵ They will declare, “The Lord is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!”

Song/week: Carrie Underwood – “Garden”

Remember – time change this Sunday, Nov. 5