

Tending to a Harvest

February 24, 2019

Scripture:

“³⁰ I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, ³¹ and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. ³² Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. ³³ A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ³⁴ and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.” (Proverbs 24:30–34, ESV)

From the Introduction:

The season of tending for a harvest is not a period for shirking one’s duties, but is a time of painstaking detail work, which in the natural realm might consist of watering, weeding, and tending the soil. The same is true for all those who wish to take part in the season of harvesting God’s promises.

Outline:

I. Watering

A. Without proper watering the field will grow _____.

B. Those in whom the word is sown need _____.

II. Weeding

A. Without proper weeding the field will become _____.

B. Those in whom the word is sown need _____.

III. Tending

A. Without proper tending the field will lack _____.

B. Those in whom the word is sown need _____.

Remember:

“⁶ Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷ Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, ⁸ she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6–8, ESV)

Reflect:

"Work is so foundational to our makeup that it is one of the few things we can take in significant doses without harm. Indeed, the Bible does not say we should work one day and rest six or that work and rest should be balanced evenly but directs us to the opposite ratio. Leisure and pleasure are great goods, but we can take only so much of them."

- Tim Keller

Seek:

In this week's remember passage the writer of Proverbs notes the industrial nature of the ant, whose work is always in due season. What does this passage say to you about "preparing" and "harvesting" in due season for the Lord?

Share:

We have all, at one time or another, found ourselves on the receiving end of God's tending in His garden. Share with the group how you feel about knowing God has gone to such great lengths to make certain His harvest took place in your life.

Serve:

In nature's garden, weeding is probably the most tedious part of the harvest work. Similarly, protecting those in whom the Truth has been sown is also tedious. What methods can we use to protect others from the weeds of the world and help nurture the seed God has planted?

Pray:

This week ask the Lord to direct you to where His garden needs tending. Open your heart and spirit to His guiding, and respond in obedience to His call.