

“Seedtime and Harvest”

Message for the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

From Sylvia Gardner

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Malachi 4:1-6 ✻ 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5,6-13 ✻ Luke 21:5-8,29-36

GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE FROM GOD OUR FATHER AND FROM
OUR LORD AND SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST. AMEN. HE IS RISEN!!

he first thing Noah did after the Flood was to build an altar and make a sacrifice to the Lord. God was pleased with Noah and made promises to the human family through the faith of Noah. One of the promises given was the Law of Seedtime and Harvest: “While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest ... shall not cease.”

Everything starts as a seed. That’s the first law of the harvest. When God created the first living thing, He gave it the ability to grow and multiply through the principle of sowing and reaping.

If you sow a mango seed, you will reap mango fruits.

If you sow an orange seed, you will reap orange fruits.

If you sow seeds of righteousness, generosity and faithfulness, you will reap a harvest of joy, abundance and blessings.

The harvest is always greater than the seed sown.

Our harvest springs from the good or bad seeds we have sown, whether or not we were consciously aware of our seed-planting.

The concept of seedtime and harvest calls us to be intentional about the seeds we sow in our lives.

Every achievement starts as a seed. Bethel Lutheran Church started as a seed when ordinary people like you and me wanted to share with other believers the common union we have with Christ and with each other. They wanted a place

where they could help people meet Jesus. Their pictures are on the wall in the hallway.

It all starts as a seed, whether it's your time, money, appreciation, attention, wisdom, or energy. You don't plant a seed one day and the plant pops up the next. You have to keep tending to the seeds you plant - nurturing them, watering them and cultivating them before you reap the harvest. You need patience and perseverance while waiting for the harvest.

The potential of your seed is never known until it is planted.

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. Things might look very small at the beginning, but just wait – someday, they can be very, very, very big! Just keep doing the little things, and God will make them grow.

While we sow the seeds, God is the one who brings the harvest.

This principle of sowing and reaping reflects a spiritual truth: the rewards of diligent sowing far exceed the initial effort. God ensures that the fruits of our labor multiply.

Your words can be seeds that you plant in people's minds. They grow, and they bear fruit for those you love the most—your children, your spouse, and your friends—but also the people you meet in your everyday life.

Even the smallest amount of genuine, trusting faith is enough to accomplish great things. Just as a tiny mustard seed grows into a large plant, the power of faith is not measured by its size, but by its quality of deep trust and dependence on God, enabling believers to overcome seemingly impossible challenges.

Jesus prayed that we will be one, so that we will know him. We plant seeds to fulfill Jesus' desire for us to be one. The phrase from Mathew states that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them".

We practice oneness every single time we come to Church on Sunday.

We sing with one voice. We sing in harmony because we are all different, but we all sing the same words of praise to our God.

We listen to God's word. Scripture comes to us and through us and gathers us together as one as our seeds mature.

We say prayers together with one voice. The prayers link us together as we talk to our God. Scripture and Christian History tell us clearly that God loves to communicate with his people.

As we enter into guided prayer, we take time to quiet our heart and listen to the voice of the Spirit. We pray that the seeds we plant bring forth a bountiful harvest.

Together we say, WE believe. Whether it is the Nicene or Apostles Creed, we hold each other safe. We are the trellis that supports one another as we declare that it is WE who believe.

We come here and together we confess our sins. We are sorry. We have not loved YOU with our whole heart and we have not loved others as ourselves. And together we hear that our sins are forgiven and that we can go in Peace.

We hold hands in Communion. We eat one bread and drink one cup. We share in one body - The Body of Christ.

This is a great place to be. We love one another. We care about one another. At Bethel, we bring people together that are different. We come in all shapes, sizes, ages, colors, and cultures. God's amazing creativity made sure of that! Sowers of seeds are the children, the good Samaritans, the Marys and Marthas, and people like Peter and Paul who turned their lives 180 degrees to be able to serve Christ fully and unconditionally.

Through fellowship, we have an opportunity to listen. The God in each of us listening to one another because God speaks to us through the community of believers. In fellowship we plant seeds in our relationships and with the people God brings into our lives and we watch them grow and plant seeds themselves.

At Bethel, we love as a family. In fellowship, with good food, we tell stories. We tell of our "God Finds" - the moments or the ordinary places and with ordinary people where we found God. Our shared stories help others see how Jesus cares.

With courage we plant seeds of trust and kindness. We plant seeds that build people up and keep believing while the seed grows. Then we reap a harvest of

blessing.

We learn through problems and pain that we need other people.

In the Garden of Eden God said that it is not good for man to be alone. Challenging times are the most powerful reminders that we are not meant to go through life alone. As we share our joys, our sorrows, our hardships or grief, we receive support and love. We can be helpful to others as we pass on lessons learned. None of us will live long enough to learn everything we need to know first hand.

God wants us to learn to plant in small ways to reap larger benefits.

A Doctor Friend of mine cared for her husband with dementia. She organized a church service for patients with memory loss. Yes, there were disruptions, but in the singing of old familiar hymns and familiar rituals, all became one. Love and unity reached the world where Jesus lives.

God's Word is not going to change. Genesis 8:22 says that as long as the earth remains, there shall be seedtime and harvest.

Plant the seed. Be patient and keep believing while the seed grows. When we plant seeds, we may get some dirt on our hands, but we should be courageous in planting our seeds.

When you give away praise, good advice, your time, your money, when you share your experiences to help other people, when you give your love, you will reap a bountiful harvest.

By following God's law of seedtime and harvest, you will be able to reach your full potential, and see your life become fruitful, multiplied and replenished.

Let us remember these key truths:

1. God's promise of harvest is certain.
2. The harvest will come in its due time.
3. We must not grow weary in sowing good seeds.

The blessings of seedtime and harvest are rooted in God's eternal principles. As we sow with faith, patience, and diligence, and trust in the Lord of the harvest, He

will reward us in ways beyond what we can imagine.

God demonstrated this when He sowed His best seed, His Son, Jesus Christ, to receive you and me into the kingdom as His harvest.

Sow the seed of His promise in the soil of your need!

Amen