The Lord's Message: The Harvest, Planting the Good Seed
Date: November 15, 2026
Where: Tilghman Methodist Church
Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9

We are continuing our sermon series on The Harvest. We have all seen the farmers out in the fields harvesting the crops.

Now harvesting crops is very important for food, but Jesus describes a greater harvest, the Harvest of Souls in **Matthew 9:35-38.** My prayer is after listening to the entire sermon series, you will have the tools to win souls for Jesus. It is the duty of every Christian to win souls for Him.

Let us review what we have learned so far. In the first sermon, we learned about four types of soil: the hard beaten down path soil, the rocky soil, the weedy soil, and the good soil. In the first three types of soil, the farmer was not able to harvest a crop. The last soil, the good soil, was able to produce a harvest 100 times more than the seed which was planted. We also learned God is the farmer, the Seed is the Gospel Message, and we are the soil. We can be any four types of soil. In the first type of soil, we can have hearts which are impenetrable. We hear the Gospel Message, but we are convinced by Satan God could never love us. So, the Gospel Message dies in us. In the second soil, we can accept the Gospel message into our hearts, but if we do not put down deep roots of faith, then the trials and tribulations of this life will cause the Gospel Message to die in our hearts. In the third type of soil, we heard the Gospel Message, it takes root in our hearts, but then other priorities come and take us away from God. In the fourth soil, we hear the Gospel Message, it takes deep roots in our hearts. Our faith grows and we are used by God to tell others God loves them. They in turn hear the Gospel Message. They grow deep roots of faith, and they tell others the Gospel Message and a bountiful harvest is created for God.

Last week, we learned the proper storage of the Gospel Message is extremely important. The proper storage of the Gospel Message starts with not trying to deceive God. We deceive God when we go through the religious motions, but our hearts are not in it. The second is when we lie about our intentions. Having false motives about what we are doing for God. The third is when we try to cover up our sins through compromise. We know what we are doing is wrong in God's eyes, but we do it anyway and then make up excuses. The sad truth about these ways of deception is we do not deceive God as much as we deceive ourselves. We reap what we sow. On the other hand, we can protect the Good Seed in us, by allowing the Holy Spirit to overcome our passion and desires which the devil has placed in our hearts, by not becoming lackadaisical about our faith, and by persevering in the face of adversity.

Now, we have learned about the kind of people we can be, and we have learned how to store the Good Seed in our hearts. This week, we are going to learn about planting the Good Seed in someone else' heart.

Let us pray.

When it comes to planting the Gospel Message in someone else heart, we hesitate because we think God is going to grade us on whether we are successful or not. After all, we live in a society, which is constantly demanding results. We look at our retirement plans and demand to know why our portfolio is not producing higher results. In our jobs, we face an annual review of our performance by our boss. In Sports, there is competition to be better than someone else, whether that is batting average, percentage of baskets made, tournament wins, etc.… so, we have concluded with spreading the Gospel Message, God is going to critique our performance.

The Apostle Paul reminds us this is not the case in verse 6. Our job is not fruitfulness, our job is faithfulness. God's job is fruitfulness. In the parable of the Sower, the farmer was being faithful in spreading the seeds on all the types of soil. The fruitfulness is how the soil or persons responded to the sowing of the seeds in them.

The true source of the Gospel Message is God. This is confirmed in verse 7. The farmers can till and irrigate, but God makes the seed grow. We are not responsible for changing hearts, only for planting and watering seeds. Transformation belongs to God.

I think this is good news for all of us. If it was up to us, then we would be consumed with both pride and despair over results. God removes this burden from us and says be faithful.

In verse 8, we will receive a reward for our faithfulness based on our obedience rather than the size of the harvest. God simply wants us to tell others about what God has done for us. His only Son gave His life for us. We were to suffer death for the wrong deeds which we had done. Instead, Jesus gave His life for us, so we would not have to pay the penalty for our sin. Jesus did all of this for us because of one important thing, He loves us.

The Gospel Message began with Jesus living out the Gospel Message and teaching His disciples, **Acts 1:1-3.** This is the reason Jesus chose the disciples and taught them for three years, so that they in turn would teach others and spread the Gospel Message, like the farmer, far and wide. Jesus commanded all His disciples, including you and me, to plant the Gospel Message. This is referred to in the Bible as the Great Commission in **Matthew 28: 18-20.**

Let us look at a biblical example of planting the Gospel Message.

Paul laid the foundation of faith, the Gospel Message, in Corinth. A house church was started. Apollos came and built on the foundation, by watering and nurturing the people. It was God who first gave the Gospel Message to Paul on the Road to Damacus in **Acts 9:1-5.** Then Paul went into Damacus as having been instructed by God. There God sent a man named Ananias to Paul who told him the Gospel Message which Paul told to the Corinthians. Ananias most likely received the Gospel Message from one of Jesus' disciples.

Apollos received part of the Gospel Message from John the Baptist and the rest from Priscilla and Aquila in Ephesus, **Acts 18:24-28.** Achaia is a Roman province, of which Corinth is the capital city. Priscilla and Aquila had received the Gospel Message, mostly likely from Paul. Apollos goes and builds on the foundation which Paul had laid and brings more people to Christ. Jesus' disciple was faithful for his part. Ananias was faithful for his part. Paul was faithful for his part. Priscilla and Aquila were faithful for their part. Apollos was faithful for his part. In the end, God was the one who laid the Gospel Message on all their hearts and in turn they were simply faithful to God.

In verse 9, we are God's trusted servants, His fellow workers, His field, His building, when we are obedient to Him and share the Good News with others. It is not just the pastor's job to do this, it is every Christian's job. We are all priests in the eyes of God, **1 Peter 2:9.** All of us, as priests of God, have many ways of sharing the Gospel Message. When I am preaching the Lord's Message, I am broadcasting the Message. My prayer is that I am faithful in proclaiming the Good News and it is not falling on deaf ears, but the response is between God and the person. Another way is by social media. Facebook is a great way to proclaim the Gospel Message but be careful. Sometimes, you can get a lot of backlash` from unbelievers. Stay calm and do not argue with them. A third way is through phone calls or text messages. This works great especially if there is distance between you and another person. The fourth way is the one I like the best. Simply sitting and talking to a person. Be authentic.

In summary, God requires our faithfulness in planting the Gospel Message and then leaving the transformation up to God. Let us be faithful by continuing to listen to God and do what He says. Amen.