

Space for God Seeds that Grow

PREPARATION

'Plant the good seeds of righteousness, and you will harvest a crop of love.

Plow up the hard ground of your hearts, for now is the time to seek the Lord, that he may come and shower righteousness upon you.' Hosea 10:12

CONFESSION

"Plow up the hard ground of your hearts! Do not waste your good seed among thorns. O people of Judah and Jerusalem, surrender your pride and power.

Change your hearts before the Lord, or my anger will burn like an unquenchable fire because of all your sins. Jeremiah 2:3b-4

WORSHIP

But the godly will flourish like palm trees and grow strong like the cedars of Lebanon. For they are transplanted to the Lord's own house. They flourish in the courts of our God. Even in old age they will still produce fruit; they will remain vital and green. They will declare,

"The Lord is just! He is my rock! There is no evil in him!" Psalm 92:12-15

MEDITATION & CONTEMPLATION—Mark 4:26-34*

Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it with a sickle, for the harvest time has come."

Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of all garden plants; it grows long branches, and birds can make nests in its shade."

Jesus used many similar stories and illustrations to teach the people as much as they could understand. In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them.

IN SOLITUDE AND/OR COMMUNITY

Read	Slowly, several times.
Reflect	What does the text say?
Respond	How does it relate to my life?
Rest	I welcome God's healing and renewal.

ANCHORING PRAYER

LORD, teach me about Your Kingdom.

REVIEW OF THE HEART

What spiritual seeds am I planting and watering?

Where could I be planting or watering right now?

WISDOM

It's not important who does the planting, or who does the watering. What's important is that God makes the seed grow. The one who plants and the one who waters work together with the same purpose. And both will be rewarded for their own hard work. 1 Corinthians 3:7-8

"This is what the Sovereign Lord says: I will take a branch from the top of a tall cedar, and I will plant it on the top of Israel's highest mountain. It will become a majestic cedar, sending forth its branches and producing seed. Birds of every sort will nest in it, finding shelter in the shade of its branches. And all the trees will know that it is I, the Lord, who cuts the tall tree down and makes the short tree grow tall. It is I who makes the green tree wither and gives the dead tree new life. I, the Lord, have spoken, and I will do what I said!" Ezekiel 17:22-24

TESTIMONY *What is God saying to me?*

INTERCESSION *Prayers for the Church, for others, and for me.*

BENEDICTION

Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is despair, hope;

where there is darkness, light;

where there is sadness, joy.

-Amen-

-Francis of Assisi

SPACE FOR GOD DAILY

Be still and quiet before God.

Seek the Holy Spirit's filling and

Speak and act from a listening heart.

Actively serve in community with others.