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1-25-2022

BREAK UP THE FALLOW GROUND

If you have ever done any gardening in a place where the dirt is “hard as rock” then you know that nothing will take root unless the dirt is hoed and broken apart. Seed cannot penetrate hard places.

So, it is true with the human life. God might want to plant seed into your life, but if your heart has become hardened you cannot receive it. In Hosea 10:12 it says, ***“sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you.”***

Fallow ground is ground that has been tilled but left for a lengthy period without anything planted into it. It becomes hardened. It had a purpose, but it wasn't being used for that purpose. It was dormant.

Perhaps in a person's life that has “fallow ground,” you once set yourself to seek after God, but the cares of the world or any other number of excuses has caused you not to live your life 100% for the Lord. God may even try to get your attention, but you have been careless in listening. Did you notice in Hosea that it tells us to break up the fallow ground? This means that we are the ones to take the first step in getting our hearts (ground) right with God.

How is this done? It is done through repentance. It is done through being sorry for being “dormant” for the Lord. When we acknowledge that our lives are not fruitful and want to be fruitful again, then God can begin to plant the word in us.

In Matthew 13:18-23 it talks about seed being sown. The seed represents the word of God. The ground represents a person's heart.

One seed was sown but because they had no understanding it didn't take root.

Another seed was sown on stony ground. It was received with joy, but it didn't last because the ground was stony (hardened), and it couldn't grow roots. Because it didn't have the word rooted deep in their heart (ground) they became offended when persecution came.

Another was sown among thorns. This ground (heart) wasn't good because the word would be choked out by cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches.

Then finally, one was sown on good ground. It took root because the ground was prepared to receive the word. The fallowness of the ground (their heart) had been broken up. Then it brought forth hundredfold, sixtyfold, and thirtyfold.

If we calculate the story of the sower, only one fourth of the seed (word) sown took root in good ground (heart). But only one third produced one hundredfold. This tells us that only 8.3% received all that God wanted them to have. The rest either received nothing or only a percentage of what they would have received if their ground (heart) had been made ready to receive.

If we aren't receiving like we should, we need to examine ourselves and see what is keeping us from receiving. It could be unforgiveness, it could be bitterness, it could be self-pity. It could be pride, or it could be hatred. It could be unconfessed sin, or disobedience in any number of ways. I guarantee you that when you get your heart (ground) right with God, you will never regret it.