

February 21, 2021

Speaker: Pastor Tim McCardel

New Message Series: GAME PLAN: What's Your Game Plan?

Today's Message: Gardening First, Harvesting Second

Matthew 16:18 "... I will build My church and all the powers of hell will not conquer it."

1. Adjusting Our Thinking

John 4:34-36

Some Obvious Truths:

- 1) "Before there can be any harvest, there always has to be a season of gardening."
- 2) People Need a period of time: thinking about the gospel, wondering if its true: "God, are You real?"
- 3) When we learn to garden better: eventually the harvest will be better too!
- 4) Experiencing God Principle: "You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing."

1 Timothy 6:20, 21

1 Timothy 4:1, 2, 7, 10, 11

2 Timothy 1:8, 13, 14

2. Gardening Tools

Colossians 4:5, 6

Paul Gives Three Elements:

- 1) Be Smart: Move slowly; Be a state, not blunt; prayful not sloppy
 - 2) Be Kind: Show caring sweetness, probe gently, stay calm and patient.
- Note:** If anyone gets mad—you lose!
- 3) Be Tactical: Have A Game Plan—Adjust to the individual, tailor your words to his special situation, every person is unique

Remember: We're doing gardening -get them thinking, no "Hail Mary Passes" needed

Matthew 10:39 "If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for Me, you will find it."

3. Three Skills To Develop

- 1) Knowledge: The message of God's Kingdom

Matthew 10:16

1 Corinthians 1:17-19

Acts 26:22-25

- 2) Wisdom: Makes our message clear and persuasive

Two Key Areas: Offensive Apologetics: A Positive Case For Christianity: Gives evidence for God's existence, Christ's Resurrection, or Bible's Inspiration

Romans 1:15-23

Defensive Apologetics: Answers challenges meant to undermine or disprove Christianity

2 Timothy 2:15-18

- 3) Christ Like Character

1 Corinthians 12:31-13:3

The Big, HUGE NEED: If we do not embody the love of Christ, we will by our own failure and flavor of our flesh turn people off to Jesus Christ.

John 4:28-30, 39