

Ag-GROW-culture: The Harvest

Tonight we will be closing out this series, and to do so we will take communion and spend some time reflecting on the harvest that God wants for our lives.

LEADERS: Please take time to prepare to pass the Communion Elements out to your people during the reflective portion of the video. I will be leading everyone through this time, however if you have a devotional thought you would like to add, please feel free to do so.

LESSON:

When you think about the Harvest, what comes to your mind? Have you ever been a part of a community harvest of any type?

This morning Kelly said that we are the crop God is after.

God made us for Him.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

- Rev. 4:11

What does it mean to you, or how does it change your outlook to think that God made you, even with all your quirks, just for Him?

He seeks a harvest of our praise.

14 For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. 15 Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name.

16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

- Hebrews 13:14-16

Far too many times we conceptualize of praise being only during the singing part of a church service. What are some other ways you have found to be impactful as you have praised in your every day lives?

If you have time check out Kelly's Blog Post: Worship Reminds (attached)

He seeks a harvest of holy lives.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

-Romans 12:1-2

Why is our own personal holiness important to God?

What does it mean to "walk in the light as he is in the light?" 1 John 1:7

READ: Revelation 19:5-9

5 Then a voice came from the throne, saying:

**“Praise our God,
all you his servants,
you who fear him,
both great and small!”**

6 Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

**“Hallelujah!
For our Lord God Almighty reigns.**

**7 Let us rejoice and be glad
and give him glory!**

**For the wedding of the Lamb has come,
and his bride has made herself ready.**

**8 Fine linen, bright and clean,
was given her to wear.”**

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

9 Then the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”

THEN READ: Luke 14:16-24

16 But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet and invited many. 17 And at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come, for everything is now ready.’ 18 But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it. Please have me excused.’ 19 And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them. Please have me excused.’ 20 And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ 21 So the servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house became angry and said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and crippled and blind and lame.’ 22 And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ 23 And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. 24 For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

When you read about these feasts, who is invited? How much room is at the Table?

What happens if you refuse the invitation?

Why might anyone choose not to go? What are the reasons listed in Luke 14?

Will anyone be at the Feast because of you?

Who is someone you can be in prayer for to share Christ with?

Close in prayer:

Worship Reminds Us

posted Tuesday June 5, www.kellyrhoades.com

Life can be overwhelming, even for a pastor. Our congregation is facing many challenges right now internally. Several families in our church are facing serious physical health issues. In fact, we have never had this many people in the hospital having surgery and at home with long recoveries. There are many marriages that are struggling if not failing, it is the rare week that I DON'T get a call that someone is calling the lawyers, cheating, or are just done with their relationship. And then there are the host of other areas like financial burdens that are crippling families and adding to the normal familial strife that exists in any family, eroding peace in the home. And then there is our call to be on mission that cannot be forgotten, even as we face many trials that force us to turn our attention inward. As a pastor my heart is greatly burdened by all of this as I desire to shepherd and guide our people through these difficult times. Suffice it to say, I can feel smothered at times.

It was in such a moment driving down the road, praying for these families, praying that God would move and perhaps do the miraculous, that I felt a strange desire to stop praying. I turned some worship music on and decided to just kind of zone out for the rest of the drive home. As I listened I found myself begin to sing along with the song "No Limits" from Fellowship Church's Everlasting album. It is a song that proclaims the greatness of God with boldness and enthusiasm. As I sang I felt those burdens that I cannot begin to bear being lifted. Worship has the power to transcend our intellect, our emotions, and the perceived reality that we face. It reminds us that God **IS** bigger than the situations, stressors, and struggles in our lives that tend to bring us down.

Worship reminds us:

That while we have limitations, God is boundless.

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, 21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

-Ephesians 3:20-21 (NLT)

Worship reminds us that while we feel distant and disconnected God desires for us to find rest and peace in Him.

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

-Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

Worship reminds us that while we cannot see the end result, God not only has a plan, he has the redemption of all things in mind.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

-Romans 8:28 (NIV)

Worship reminds us that while we are overwhelmed with many issues in life, God is in control.

11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”

-Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NIV)

Worship reminds us that even when we feel unworthy, unloved, and alone God is with us, is for us, and loves us beyond measure.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God’s love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God’s love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

-Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

But God has shown us how much he loves us—it was while we were still sinners that Christ died for us!

Romans 5:8 (GNT)

If you are feeling stressed out today, feeling overwhelmed, and at your wits end; of course take time to pray. Of course take time to fellowship with other believers. But also take time to worship the Lord. Psalm 22:3 tells us that God inhabits the praises of His people. So go ahead, play your favorite worship tunes and crank it up! Raise your voice to him, make a joyful noise! And experience the presence of God in the middle of your trial. You'll find His peace that surpasses understanding often lies in the heart of worship.

Grace and Peace to you!