

PULPIT COMPANION

IT'S
HARVEST
TIME

GENESIS 41:41

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We find ourselves standing at the culmination of a spiritual journey through the stages of harvest, arriving finally at stage six: reaping time. Drawing from Galatians 6:9, we're reminded that we will reap a harvest at the proper time if we do not give up.

This message unveils three powerful dimensions of reaping that transform how we understand spiritual maturity.

First, we must reap what we've sown—a universal truth that applies to our bodies, relationships, and spiritual lives. Whatever we've allowed to take root will eventually come to harvest, whether it's goodness, peace, faith, or unfortunately, the consequences of neglect. The Greek word 'therizo' teaches us that reaping isn't just about gathering for today, but securing provision for tomorrow.

Second, we must gather in the leftovers, as Jesus commanded after feeding the five thousand. Nothing in God's kingdom is wasted—our wounds become wisdom, our failures become faith, our trials become testimony.

Finally, we must bring in our harvest as an act of worship, honoring God with our first fruits before consuming the blessing ourselves. Like Joseph who stored grain for seven years to prepare for famine, we're called to be kingdom harvesters who understand generational preservation. This isn't just about our season; it's about feeding the fourth generation after us.





SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
- John 6:12 - "When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted."
- Proverbs 3:9-10 - "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops. Then your barns will be filled to overflowing and your vats will brim over with new wine."
- Genesis 41:41 - "So Pharaoh said to Joseph, I hereby put you in charge of the whole land of Egypt."
- Matthew 9:35-38 - "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: The Sower's Faithfulness

Reading: Galatians 6:7-10

Devotional: The harvest begins with faithful sowing. Paul reminds us that we reap what we sow—not as punishment, but as spiritual law. What seeds are you planting today? Your words, actions, attitudes, and investments of time all become seeds in the soil of tomorrow. The sower doesn't always see immediate results, yet continues planting in faith. God is working beneath the surface even when growth seems invisible. Don't grow weary in doing good; your faithfulness matters eternally. The proper time for harvest is coming.

Today, examine what you're sowing into your relationships, body, and spiritual life. Are these seeds you want to reap later?

Reflection Question: What "seeds" have you been sowing that you need to change before harvest time?

Day 2: Gathering the Fragments

Reading: John 6:1-15

Devotional: After Jesus multiplied bread and fish to feed thousands, He commanded His disciples to "gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." This reveals God's heart for stewardship and preservation. The leftovers weren't garbage—they were provision for tomorrow. What "fragments" in your life have you dismissed as insignificant? Your past wounds, lessons from failures, testimonies from trials—these are not waste but wisdom for the future. God wastes nothing He works in you.

Today's fragments become tomorrow's foundation. Gather the wisdom from your wounds, perspective from your problems, and faith from your failures. These leftovers will feed someone who desperately needs what you've learned.

Reflection Question: What "leftover" lesson or testimony do you need to gather and preserve for future use?





DEVOTIONAL

Day 3: Bringing in the First Fruits

Reading: Proverbs 3:9-10

Devotional: "Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops." Bringing in the harvest isn't just about collection—it's about consecration. The ancient Israelites didn't consume first; they consecrated first, offering their best to God. This principle applies beyond finances to every area of life. What are you giving God first—your time, energy, attention, excellence? You cannot expect kingdom overflow while withholding kingdom ownership. When you bring in your first fruits, you declare that everything belongs to God before it benefits you. This act of worship positions you for supernatural multiplication.

Today, identify one area where you're giving God leftovers instead of first fruits, and make the adjustment.

Reflection Question: In what area of your life are you giving God the leftovers rather than the first fruits?

Day 4: Don't Give Up Before Harvest

Reading: Galatians 6:9

Devotional: "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." The Greek word for "give up" means to loosen your grip, to unstring your bow, to surrender under pressure. Paul knew the temptation to quit when the field looks barren and the soil resists growth. But harvest is guaranteed for those who don't loosen their grip. The weeds may grow at the same pace as your good seed, but don't stop cultivating. Keep sowing goodness, mercy, forgiveness, and peace—even when others don't respond quickly. God works in the underground; roots are strengthening beneath the surface. Your due season is scheduled by heaven's calendar, not earth's impatience.

Reflection Question: Where are you tempted to "loosen your grip" and give up before the harvest comes?





DEVOTIONAL

Day 5: Generational Harvest

Reading: Matthew 9:35-38

Devotional: Jesus looked at the crowds with compassion and declared, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.' He wasn't just talking about numerical growth—He was calling harvesters who understand generational preservation. What you gather today feeds your children's children tomorrow. What you bring in now blesses the fourth generation. What you reap this season rises in the next. Joseph stored grain for seven years so that when famine came, nations were fed and generations were saved. This is kingdom harvesting—stewarding resources, wisdom, and blessing not just for yourself but for those coming after you. You are called to be a harvester who refuses to let lessons rot or breakthroughs be buried. It's harvest time.

Reflection Question: What are you harvesting and storing today that will bless the next generation?

Closing Prayer: Lord, make me a faithful harvester in Your kingdom. Help me to sow with conviction, reap with courage, gather with gratitude, and bring in with glory. Let nothing You've worked in me be wasted. Give me eyes to see the harvest and strength to complete the work. In Jesus' name, Amen.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "It's Harvest Time"

Opening Prayer:

Key Scripture:

Galatians 6:9 - "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Additional References: John 6:12, Proverbs 3:9-10, Genesis 41:41, Matthew 9:35-38

Icebreaker Question

Share about a time when you had to wait a long time for something good to happen. How did you feel during the waiting, and how did it feel when it finally arrived?

Sermon Overview

The sermon concludes the harvest series by focusing on Stage 6: Reaping. Pastor emphasized that the sower and the reaper are not always the same person, and that reaping involves three critical actions:

1. **Reaping** - harvesting what has been sown
2. **Gathering** - collecting even the leftover fragments
3. **Bringing In** - dedicating the harvest back to God for future generations

The central message: Don't give up now. At the proper time (Kairos moment), we will reap what we've faithfully sown if we don't loosen our grip.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "Feed What You Want to Flourish"

Discussion Questions:

Part 1: Understanding the Harvest (15-20 minutes)

1. The Sower vs. The Reaper: The pastor explained that the sower and reaper aren't always the same person. Can you think of examples in your life where you've sown into something but someone else reaped the benefit? How did that feel?
2. Personal Inventory: The sermon challenged us to examine what we've been "sowing" physically, spiritually, and relationally. What patterns in your life right now might produce a harvest you don't want? What patterns are producing good fruit?
3. Don't Give Up: Paul's phrase "do not give up" literally means "don't loosen your grip." What specific area of your life is tempting you to "loosen your grip" right now? What would it look like to hold on?

Part 2: Gathering the Leftovers (15-20 minutes)

1. The Value of Leftovers: Jesus commanded His disciples to "gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted" (John 6:12). Why do you think we often overlook or dismiss "leftovers" in our spiritual lives?
2. What Are Your Leftovers? The pastor listed several types of spiritual "leftovers" to gather:
 - o Wisdom from wounds
 - o Perspective from problems
 - o Faith from failures
 - o Endurance from emptiness
 - o Gratitude from grief
3. Which of these resonates most with you right now? What "leftover" lesson has God been trying to teach you that you might be overlooking?
4. Testimony Gathering: The sermon emphasized that "your leftovers are blessings that somebody else needs to hear and see." What "leftover" testimony from your past struggles could encourage someone in your group or life right now?





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "Feed What You Want to Flourish"

Discussion Questions:

Part 3: Bringing In for the Kingdom (15-20 minutes)

1. First Fruits Principle: Proverbs 3:9-10 talks about honoring God with our "first fruits." What does it practically look like to give God your "first" rather than your "leftovers" in these areas:
 - Time
 - Finances
 - Energy
 - Attention
2. Joseph's Strategy: Joseph gathered grain for seven years to prepare for seven years of famine (Genesis 41). What does this teach us about:
 - Planning for future generations
 - Stewardship during times of abundance
 - Wisdom in seasons of plenty
3. Generational Preservation: The pastor emphasized that "what you gather today will feed your children's children tomorrow." What are you currently doing (or could start doing) that will create a spiritual harvest for the next generation?

Key Takeaways

Write these down and share which one impacts you most:

1. **You reap what you sow** - This is a universal, spiritual truth. We cannot blame genetics, circumstances, or others for harvests we've created through our own sowing.
2. **Don't waste the leftovers** - Every lesson learned, every trial endured, every breakthrough experienced has value. Gather them; they're seeds for tomorrow.
3. **The harvest is guaranteed at the proper time** - God's timing (Kairos) is perfect. Our job is to not give up before the appointed season.
4. **Bringing in means giving back first** - Kingdom overflow requires kingdom ownership. Honor God with your first fruits, not your leftovers.
5. **Harvest is for generations** - What we reap, gather, and bring in today impacts the fourth generation. We're not just harvesting for ourselves.





Practical Applications:

This Week's Challenge (Choose 1-2):

Personal Stewardship Audit:

- Conduct an honest assessment of what you're currently "sowing" in three areas:
 - Physical health (eating, exercise, rest)
 - Spiritual growth (prayer, Bible reading, worship)
 - Relationships (time, attention, words)
- Write down one change you need to make in each area

Leftover Inventory:

- Journal about a past difficulty or "waste" in your life
- Identify at least three lessons or strengths that came from it
- Share one of these testimonies with someone who might need encouragement

First Fruits Commitment:

- Identify one area where you're giving God your "leftovers" instead of your "first"
- Make a specific commitment to change this pattern for the next 30 days
- Share your commitment with an accountability partner in the group

Generational Investment:

- Choose one person from the next generation (child, grandchild, young person in church)
- Commit to intentionally "sowing" into their life this month through:
 - Sharing your testimony
 - Teaching a skill
 - Praying with them
 - Investing time

Stop Blaming, Start Owning:

- Make a list of areas where you've been blaming circumstances, genetics, others, or the government
- Prayerfully confess these to God and ask for wisdom to take ownership
- Develop one action step for each area





Group Activity

Harvest Declaration Circle:

Stand in a circle. Each person completes this statement aloud:

"I declare it's harvest time in my life. I will not give up on _____ (specific area). I will gather _____ (specific leftover/lesson). And I will bring in _____ (specific offering to God) for the kingdom and future generations."

After each person shares, the group responds: **"We reap for the kingdom!"**

Closing Reflection Questions

1. What is one thing God spoke to you personally through this message?
2. What is one action step you're committing to this week?
3. How can this group pray for you as you enter your personal "harvest season"?

Closing Prayer Focus

Pray together for:

- **Endurance** - That no one would give up before their appointed harvest time
- **Eyes to see** - That God would help us recognize and gather the "leftovers" He's given us
- **Generosity** - That we would bring in our first fruits, not our leftovers, to honor God
- **Generational impact** - That our harvest would feed generations to come
- **The church** - That Maranatha Christian Center would be ready for the harvest God has prepared





For Next Week

Preparation: Reflect on the entire harvest series (Stages 1-6). Come prepared to share:

- Which stage was most challenging for you?
- What has changed in your perspective on spiritual growth?
- What harvest are you now expecting that you weren't expecting before?

Leader Notes

- **Time Management:** This guide contains more material than most groups can cover in one session. Select the questions most relevant to your group's needs.
- **Create Safety:** The personal inventory questions may bring up sensitive topics. Remind the group of confidentiality and create space for people to pass if needed.
- **Stay Focused:** The sermon touches on controversial topics (government, health, etc.). Keep discussions focused on personal responsibility and spiritual application rather than political debate.
- **Celebrate Testimonies:** Make space for people to share "leftover" testimonies. These stories build faith and encourage the group.
- **Follow Up:** Check in with group members during the week about their practical

