

PULPIT COMPANION

DO SOMETHING
WITH WHAT YOU
KNOW

HOSEA 10:12

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09:45 AM

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In this powerful message, we're called to 'till the ground' of our hearts, preparing ourselves for a spiritual harvest.

The central theme revolves around Hosea 10:12, urging us to 'break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord.' This agricultural metaphor beautifully illustrates our need for inner transformation. Just as a farmer must break up hard soil before planting, we must confront the hardened areas of our lives - pride, sin, greed, and entitlement.

The message challenges us to examine ourselves deeply, uprooting negative patterns and creating fertile soil for God's word to take root. It's a call to intentional spiritual growth, reminding us that true change begins with honest self-reflection and a willingness to be transformed by God's love.

SCRIPTURES FROM PULPIT AI

- Hosea 10:12
- Ezra 7:10
- Proverbs 16:18
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Matthew 13:9
- James 1:22-25
- John 13:17
- Deuteronomy 5:1
- Genesis 6:22
- Genesis 12:4
- Luke 10:33-34
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- Acts 1:1
- John 13:12-15
- Psalm 51:10-13 (alluded to in the "create in me a clean heart" section)





DEVOTIONAL

Day 1: Breaking Up the Fallow Ground

Reading: Hosea 10:12-13

Devotional: Just as a farmer must break up hard soil before planting, we too must allow God to break up the hardened areas of our hearts. What parts of your life have become resistant to God's word? Pride, bitterness, or unconfessed sin can create barriers.

Today, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any "fallow ground" in your heart. Spend time in honest prayer, allowing God to till the soil of your soul. Remember, this process may be uncomfortable, but it prepares you to receive and grow in God's truth.

Day 2: The Power of Humility

Reading: Philippians 2:3-11

Devotional: Jesus exemplified true humility by washing His disciples' feet. This act of service came before His teaching, demonstrating that our actions often speak louder than our words.

Reflect on areas in your life where pride may be hindering your spiritual growth or relationships. How can you intentionally practice humility today? Consider a practical act of service you can do for someone, expecting nothing in return. Allow Christ's example to shape your heart and actions.

Day 3: Applying God's Word

Reading: James 1:22-25

Devotional: Knowledge of Scripture is important, but it's the application of God's word that transforms our lives. James warns against being merely hearers of the word, likening it to someone who looks in a mirror and immediately forgets what they saw. As you read Scripture today, ask yourself: "How can I put this into practice?" Choose one specific way to apply God's word in your life, whether it's extending forgiveness, speaking words of encouragement, or addressing a habitual sin. Remember, obedience often precedes understanding.





Day 4: Cultivating a Teachable Spirit

Reading: Proverbs 9:9-10

Devotional: Wisdom begins with a fear of the Lord and a willingness to learn. Ezra "set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach" (Ezra 7:10). This progression—study, application, then teaching—is a model for spiritual growth.

Reflect on your own approach to learning. Are you quick to speak or slow to listen? Do you seek to understand before being understood? Ask God to cultivate a teachable spirit within you, one that is open to correction and eager to grow in wisdom.

Day 5: Bearing Fruit Through Perseverance

Reading: Galatians 6:7-10

Devotional: The process of spiritual growth, like agriculture, requires patience and perseverance. We may not see immediate results from our efforts to grow in faith, but God promises that we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. What areas of your spiritual life feel dry or unfruitful? Instead of becoming discouraged, choose to persevere in prayer, study of God's word, and acts of service. Trust that God is working beneath the surface, preparing a harvest in His perfect timing.

Today, commit to "doing good" even when you don't see immediate results, knowing that your labor in the Lord is never in vain.





SMALL GROUP GUIDE: "Tilling the Heart for Spiritual Harvest"

Opening Prayer:

Begin the session by asking God to open hearts and minds to His word and to guide the discussion.

Key Scripture:

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions "gentle parenting." How might this concept relate to our spiritual growth? What are the potential benefits and drawbacks of a "gentle" approach to faith?
2. Pastor mentions that pride often hides behind comparison. How have you seen this in your own life or in society? How can we combat this tendency?
3. The sermon states, "Sin gives you a good feeling and a sense of power and control." How does this insight help us understand the struggle against sin? How can we overcome these deceptive aspects of sin?
4. Discuss the concept of entitlement in relation to faith. How might entitlement hinder our spiritual growth and service to others?
5. The pastor emphasizes the importance of applying God's word before teaching it. Share an experience where you've seen the power of lived-out faith versus just spoken faith.
6. How does the image of "tilling the heart" resonate with you? What areas of your life might need "tilling"?





Practical Applications:

1. **Self-Examination:** Take time this week to prayerfully examine your heart. What "fallow ground" needs to be broken up? What sins or attitudes need to be uprooted?
2. **Applied Learning:** Choose one Biblical principle you've learned but struggled to apply. Make a concrete plan to put it into practice this week.
3. **Accountability:** Partner with another group member to support each other in "tilling" a specific area of your spiritual life.
4. **Service Opportunity:** As a group, plan a service activity that allows you to put faith into action, following Jesus' example of washing feet before teaching.
5. **Journaling:** Keep a daily journal this week, noting instances where you see pride, greed, or entitlement in your thoughts or actions. Pray over these areas, asking God to till your heart.

Key Takeaways:

1. Spiritual growth requires "tilling" the heart - breaking up hardened areas to receive God's word.
2. Pride, sin, greed, and entitlement are common barriers that need to be uprooted.
3. True spiritual fruit comes from preparing the heart, applying God's word, and then teaching others.
4. We must practice what we preach for our teaching to be effective and authentic.

Closing Prayer:

Close by praying the prayer from the end of the sermon, asking God to till hearts, break up fallow ground, and prepare each person to receive and live out His word.

