

Sermon Outline - Sun, August 21, 2022 – New Roots in Nature – Nightingale St. Garden
AGRICULTURE – Deuteronomy 11:13-17; 1 Corinthians 3:5-9

Keyword Summary –

Overview – We are in our second week of New Roots in Nature – a time to get closer to the Creator by spending time in the Creation. Some of us are gathered in person or online and many of us are out in nature hopefully finding usefulness in the devotional guides for this month.

Exegesis

- The Genesis story was about how God set up the land to produce food that we could partake in without having to do any work - we were vegetarian
- Humans wanted some control and one of the consequences was a system in which we have to hunt for and grow our food.
- We are still dependent on the natural world, but we put some work in for God's creation to sustain us – this is cultivated space an example of how humans can be in relationship with the natural world to sustain ourselves
- Before texts, God spoke through the natural world; the text is full of examples from the natural world

Key Points - Those things which sustain us are a gift from God – but we have to put some work in for them to grow. There are three main roles we have

- 1. Make sure they are in a space where they have access to the things they need to grow – good soil, sun, water and pollinators (wind and other insects.)**

We have things that allow us to grow – sleep, prayer, healthy friendships, meditation, exercise. When we don't make time for those things, we will have the same outcomes as plants. (Pollinating plants, water spigots, etc.)

- 2. Protect them from other things that might choke their growth (animals, weeds, toxics)**

There are also people, places and things that restrict our growth. If we are giving the majority of our time and energy to these things we are not going to grow. (Sunflowers- restorative)

- 3. Prune and pick to promote growth.**

Sometimes plants need to focus their growth to produce more fruit. Taking the time to prune unfruitful branches and picking fruit when it is ready promotes more productivity. (Tomatoes)

Questions – You are also a garden/farm where you partner with God for your growth and the growth of the communities that you are called to be in and to serve

1. What are the things that support your growth – name them! Are you prioritizing the things you need for growth and putting your time and energy into those things? Give some concrete examples of how you are prioritizing things that help you grow?
2. What things prevent you from growing? Are you staying away from people, places and things that restrict your growth? You may not be able to keep them fully out, but are there ways you can create boundaries to minimize the negative impact?
3. Bigger is not always better. How are you stopping to really think about the ways that you can grow productively? Do you take time to enjoy your fruit and create opportunities for other fruit to grow