

# HOSEA 10:12

## Week #2 "From Fallow To Fertile" | 3.11.23

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### I. INTRODUCTION (Hosea 10:12)

- A. Last week we looked at **Hosea 10:12** and God's urgent call for His family to *sow righteousness*, to *reap in mercy*, to *break up the fallow ground*, to *seek the Lord*, and to do it, *until He rains righteousness upon them*.
- B. In Israel's case, they had left God, and were living apart from Him. Destruction was coming, but, with God there's always a way of escape, an opportunity to turn around and be restored to Him.
- C. The way of escape that God had provided Israel was calling them to return to a right life before Him and others (*sowing righteousness*). They were to repent and take responsibility for their condition (*breaking up the fallow ground*). They were to respond to God with urgency (*it was time to seek the Lord*). And if they honored their portion of God's covenant, God would honor His (*by sending them rain*).
- D. But, Israel's way of escape, or path forward, is also our path forward. We are called to return to the Lord in the same way that Israel was called to return to the Lord. We are called to turn over the soil of our hearts, in the same way that Israel was called to turn over the soil of their hearts.
- E. "From Fallow To Fertile"

### II. FROM FALLOW TO FERTILE

- A. Now, you might be wondering, why are we spending time again, looking at this singular verse, when we looked at already last week. Glad you asked. Two reasons! Firstly, because although we might be done with this verse, I don't think God is. I think we made a progressive step towards the Lord last week, but I believe there's still some steps for us to take, moving us closer to Him.
- B. Secondly, I made a statement last week, that I don't think is necessarily theologically accurate, and I want to straighten it out.
- C. Last week I said, the reason why we plow up our fallow ground is so that God's rain WILL come. But I think it's more accurate to say, we plow up the fallow ground, so that WHEN God's rain comes, we have seeds, within fertile soil, that will sprout and produce a flourishing life.
- D. Look, it's always raining in heaven. There's always fresh water being poured out from heaven to earth. So the better question is not, IF it will rain, but WHEN it rains, will there be fallow soil that's been made fertile, with seeds of righteousness that have been sown under the surface?
  - 1. Remember, fallow ground is hard ground, it's unusable soil because it's crusty, and when the seeds are sown into it, they don't sprout because they don't have the proper soil to go into.
  - 2. But the beautiful thing is, the fallow areas of our life, the crusty areas, the hard areas, the cold areas, the distant from God areas of our life can become fertile, lifegiving areas, by inviting the Holy Spirit to run His plowshare through our hearts/lives.
- E. Now, some have said, "*Why all this discussion on repentance, and returning to the Lord. We are in Christ, we are already saved, we already attend Church, and we are already doing the stuff.*"
- F. The danger here, is that because we are around HIM, we automatically assume that we are WITH HIM, NEAR HIM, THAT WE ARE ABIDING in Him and this isn't always the case. Look at a few examples from the Bible;
  - 1. **Isaiah 6**—The great prophet Isaiah, who's already in God, sees His glory, and suddenly realizes he's in need.

2. **Nehemiah 1**—*The wall is broken down—He sits, weeps, repents and reaches to God*
  3. **2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 22 | Nehemiah 8**—The book of the Law is discovered, they weep, and return to the Lord.
  4. **Hosea 6:1-2**—*Read it*
  5. **Joel 2:12-13**—*Read it*
  6. **Matthew 5:3**—Our entrance, and home in the Gospel is a confession of poverty, and need, and it's upon this confession that God gives us the kingdom.
  7. **James 4:6-8**—*Read it*
  8. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:7-10**—The thorn in Paul's flesh—boasting in weakness, and in need, for the Lord's help.
  9. **Acts 1-2**—Jesus commanded them to wait in the upper room, UNTIL—Nobody knew what they were doing, until God's Spirit was poured out—suddenly, God was using a guy, whom just 50 days ago denied that he even knew Christ—suddenly he's now preaching with power, fire, and 3,000 are saved and water baptized.
  10. **Acts 3:19**—*"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."*
- G. Beloved, this is why we plow up the fallow ground, this is why we tend to the soil of our hearts, this is why we place our cold hearts before the fire of God's love. We don't do it SO THAT GOD'S RAIN WILL COME, we do it because God's rain IS COMING, IS FALLING, and we want fertile soil that gives life to God's purposes in us and through us.
- H. So, we place ourselves, in all our brokenness, in the cold areas, in the distant parts, in the hard parts, asking Him for help!
- I. And beloved, when we call on His name, HE COMES! EVERY! SINGLE! TIME!