

Break it Up!

Text: Hosea 10:12; Psalm 139:23-24; Titus 2:11-14; Galatians 6:7-8

INTRODUCTION

²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. ²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

David was a broken man. He was far from a perfect man, but he had a broken and contrite heart that God esteemed. He prayed, "Search me, O God and know my heart..." Why? Because David knew that he could not fully understand his own heart. He knew there were probably blind spots. He knew that there were likely areas of unbelief, disobedience, pride, a self-righteous spirit and he couldn't see it.

But he prayed that God, who knows and sees all things, would reveal it to him.

Paul stated in no uncertain terms what the will of God is for my life and yours. To make us holy.

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Break Up the Unplowed Ground (Hosea 10:12)

*¹² Sow righteousness for yourselves,
reap the fruit of unfailing love,
and break up your unplowed ground;
for it is time to seek the LORD,
until he comes
and showers his righteousness on you.*

The prophet Hosea is calling the people of Israel to repentance. And he uses this powerful imagery of farming to do it.

It's as if he is saying, "Listen, you know that if you just sprinkle seeds, even if you cast many seeds on hard ground, there will be no harvest. Even if it rains, the seed will simply rot on top of that hard ground. There will be no fruit. No harvest. No change." You must break up the unplowed ground. Why? Because it is time to seek the Lord.

The LORD spoke through the prophet Jeremiah saying something very similar:

*³ This is what the LORD says to the people of Judah and to Jerusalem:
"Break up your unplowed ground
and do not sow among thorns.*

Now in groups of 10-12, I want us to circle and pray David's prayer:

Search us O God. And know our hearts! Test us. Turn the soil of hearts over. Where there is a hard heartedness, soften it. Even break it. But do not allow us to be like the Pharisees whom Jesus described in this way: you honor Me with your lips but your hearts are far from Me.

[GROUP PRAYER]

But I want to give some quiet time of reflection in this moment. Just you and the Lord. And this is what we're going to do. Ask the Lord to show you the weeds.

Lord, what are the weeds in my life right now?

[PERSONAL REFLECTION] then [GROUP DISCUSSION]

Questions for Personal Reflection and Group Discussion

- Why do you think *hesed* (unconditional-covenant love between God and one another) leads to JOY?
- Why do you think *hesed* and joy are two essential nutrients in the soil of our hearts for spiritual growth and transformation?
- Why is essential to break up the unplowed ground and remove the thorns/weeds in our life through God revealing and our repenting?
- Use the handout to continue to ask the Lord to reveal those areas of your life than need to be broken up, turned over, the weeds rake out, etc. Take adequate time to confess (to admit to God, yourself, and if need be, others) and then repent (turn away from) of these "weeds".
- Share with at least one other person this week what you sense God is breaking up in your life and whatever weeds He may have revealed.