

**GOING UP.  
GIVING UP.  
A DILEMMA**

A MESSAGE IN THE  
CULTIVATE SERIES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2017  
WONDERFUL MERCY CHURCH

# CULTIVATE

- Cultivate: to prepare and work on (land) in order to raise crops [dictionary.com]



# 1 CORINTHIANS 3:6-9

I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow.<sup>7</sup> So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.<sup>8</sup> The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor.<sup>9</sup> For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

# Cultivate

- We've noted that in the midst of cultivating the field God has called us to, simultaneously we are the field God is cultivating
- **Ephesians 2:10**  
“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

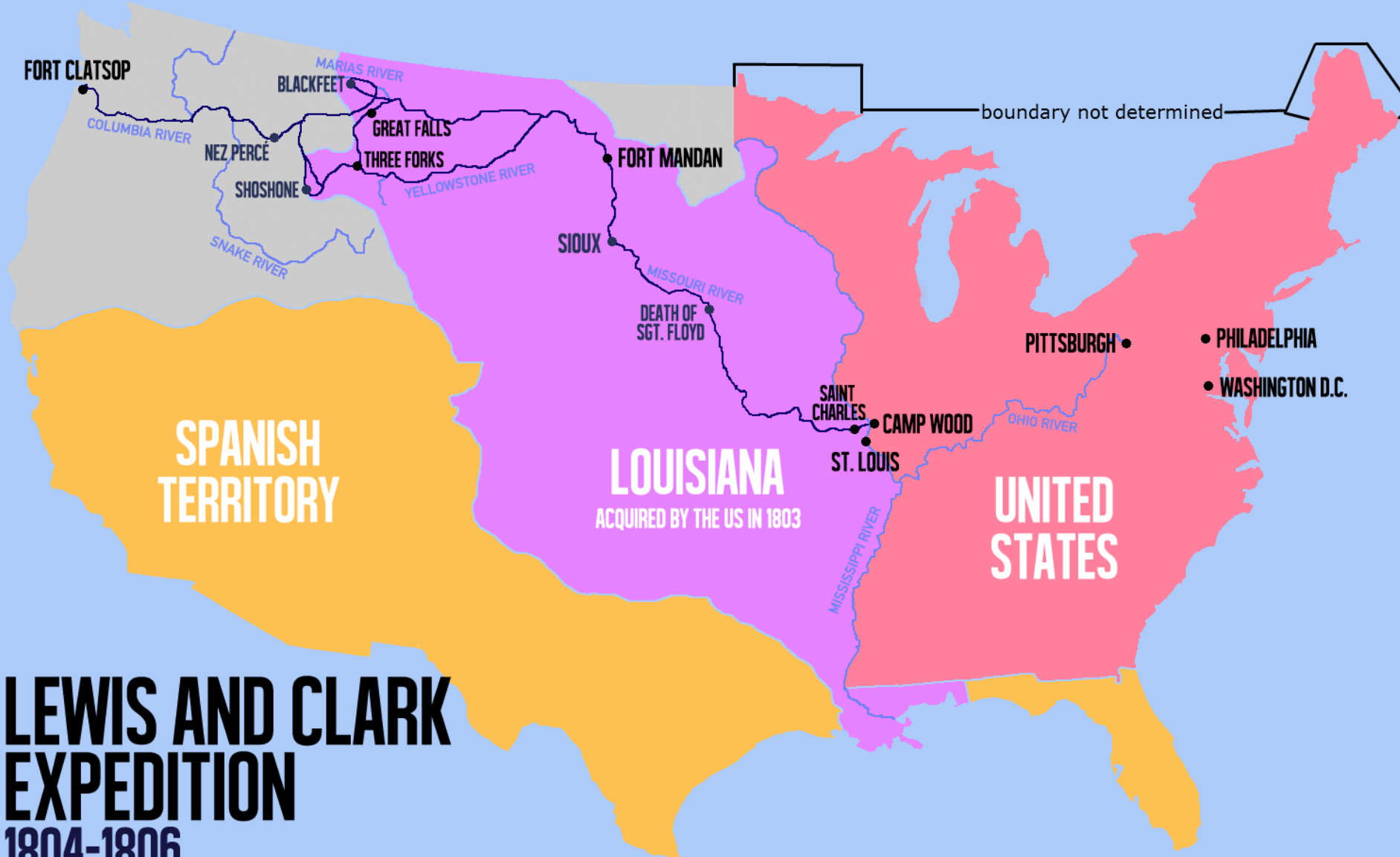
# Cultivate

- We've also noted that the results we get from cultivating are not always the results we want
- And the Holy Spirit has challenged us: *“What makes you think it’s a good idea to get what you want?”*

# Lewis & Clark's Grand Adventure

- Thomas Jefferson's mandate: "...the object of your mission is to explore the Missouri River, and [determine] ...by its course and communication with the waters of the Pacific Ocean, whether the Columbia, Oregon, Colorado or any other river, may offer the most direct and practicable water communication across this continent for the purposes of commerce..."

[<https://www.nps.gov/jeff/learn/historyculture/the-lewis-and-clark-journey-of-discovery.htm>]



# LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION

1804-1806

# Lewis & Clark's Grand Adventure

- “The toughest leg of the entire journey lay ahead over inhospitable mountains. The Corps began this leg on September 11. They had anticipated a single range of 3000 feet or so—like the Alleghenies of home. To the contrary, they found range after range. The Bitterroots, as they came to be called, were up to 9000 feet and jagged. They encountered rain, sleet, and snow, and became terribly cold. Food was hard to find, and hunger threatened.” [<http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h475.html>]



# Our Cultivating Life

- This snapshot of Lewis & Clark's expedition reminds us of what it's like to cultivate sometimes
- We come to the top of the mountain expecting to get a clear path to the sea, only to learn the toughest leg of the entire journey lies ahead over inhospitable mountains
- And decision is before us: going up or giving up?

# Our Cultivating Life

- The Lord is identifying where we're at in order to give us hope that it's not over yet
- Encouragement: keep going up instead of giving up because we are right on time with him
- Encouragement: keep going up instead of giving up because it's God who makes things grow, and he will redeem our field of cultivation

# Scripture's Encouragement

- **Hebrews 10:36** NLT

“Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God’s will. Then you will receive all that he has promised.”

- **Hebrews 10:36** MSG

“But you need to stick it out, staying with God's plan so you'll be there for the promised completion.”

# Scripture's Encouragement

- **John 16:33** PHILLIPS

“I have told you all this so that you may find your peace in me. You will find trouble in the world—but never lose heart; I have conquered the world!”

- **Galatians 6:9b** GNT

“...if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest.”

# The Continental Divide

- “A divide is high ground or mountains that cause the beginning of streams to flow in different directions. The direction of a river flow is powered by gravity. Let’s look at the Rocky Mountain Range. All the rain fall and snow melt on the easterly side of the mountains will flow downhill toward the east and the rainfall and snow melt on the westerly side of the mountain will flow downhill toward the west. The peak of these mountains is the divide between river systems. This mountain range is called the Continental Divide.” [<http://riverlorian.com/riversforkids.htm>]

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